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CITY LIFE AND ITS AMELIORATION

BY

GEORGE SHARP
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PREFACE

This little book is not so ambitious as its title might imply. Its affirmations are founded, for the most part, upon observations and experiences of the author during an aggregate period of twenty years spent in many of our large cities from the Atlantic to the Pacific. After a discussion of the limitations of life in the city, suggestions are made looking to the amelioration of the harsh conditions of that life. It is hoped that in some slight degree the effort may help to usher in that better day for which patient humanity ever longs. For the rest let the book speak for itself.

GEORGE SHARP.

Boston, January, 1915.

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CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS

OUR cities have grown so rapidly, the methods of doing business in them have changed so radically, and the gulf between the rich and the poor has widened so far, that our old-time Jeffersonian ideas of the proper limits of governmental activity are being abandoned, or, at least greatly modified. We are realizing (to use a hackneyed expression) that it is "a condition and not a theory that confronts us;" that the city, the State, the general government, as organisms must evolve and exercise powers undreamed of in our earlier history.

Now the policy we have been pursuing, both in national and city affairs, has been paradoxical. Professing dislike and even fear of governmental aggression, we have nevertheless enacted a wilderness of laws. Mr. Bryce, in his learned work, "The American Commonwealth," has devoted a short chapter to the doctrine of *laissez faire* as practised in America. With his usual breadth of view he is careful, after remarking on the dominant

desire of the American "to be let alone, to do as he pleases, indulge his impulses, follow out his projects,"—to call attention to some institutional laws, State and Federal, which, he declares, go quite as far in the direction of state action as do the laws of the Old World countries. What Mr. Bryce is pleased to denominate one of the five "ground ideas," or dogmas, that prevail in the United States, he sets forth in the following felicitous words: "The less of government the better; that is to say, the fewer occasions for interfering with the individual citizens are allowed to officials, and the less time citizens have to spend in looking after their officials, so much the more will the citizens and the community prosper. The functions of government must be kept at their minimum." To this statement of the American's attitude toward his government no exception, it seems to me, can be taken, for it is both comprehensive and just; although it was more true twenty-five years ago when Mr. Bryce wrote his book than it is now. It is when this learned expositor of our institutions seeks to show the other side of the picture, to present evidence of a great curtailment by governmental action of this individual, this every-man-for-himself policy, that his success is more apparent than real. He classifies intervention under the following heads:—

"Prohibition to individuals to do acts which are not, in the ordinary sense of the word, criminal (e. g. to sell intoxicating liquors, to employ a laborer

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for more than so many hours in a day).

"Directions to individuals to do things which it is not obviously wrong to omit (e. g. to provide seats for shop-women, to publish the accounts of a railway company).

"Interferences with the ordinary course of law in order to protect individuals from the consequences of their own acts (e. g. the annulment of contracts between employer and workmen making the former not liable for accidental injuries to the latter, the exemption of homesteads, or of a certain amount of personal property, from the claims of creditors, the prohibition of more than a certain rate of interest on money). . . .

"In every one of these kinds of legislative interference the Americans, or at least the Western States, seem to have gone further than the English Parliament. The restrictions on the liquor traffic have been more sweeping; those upon the labor of women and children, and of persons employed by the State, not less so. Moral duties are more frequently enforced by legal penalties than in England. Railroads, insurance and banking companies, and other corporations are, in most States, strictly regulated."

Certainly these specifications of laws enacted would seem to give government in America a good bill of character; and, to a reader unfamiliar with the way "business" is done here, they might convey the impression that the activity of the individual is very much hampered by the statutes. But it

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would be hard to imagine anything further from the truth. The statutes, those legislative enactments designed to supplement the old common law, prolific as they are—the annual out-put being far greater here than in Europe, as was pointed out in a learned address by the Hon. Alton B. Parker before the American Bar Association—are, for the most part, local laws; and the objection to them is directed against their enactment by the legislature instead of by the county and city departments rather than against their intrinsic qualities. Laws that have to do with the ministrant functions of government, as distinguished from the constituent functions, have been few enough. When contrasted with the institutional laws that have given nearly every other civilized people on earth the ownership and operation of railroads, telegraphs, tramways and express carriage, together with local public utilities in general, the paucity here is marked. In respect to such laws the attitude of our “business man,” the dominant force in America, is well expressed by Mr. N. P. Gilman when he says in his “Socialism and the American Spirit:” “The American is always ready to receive help from the State in starting a railway or a steamship line (the old flag and an appropriation), but he is not at all inclined to consider the Government a proper agent for the management or ownership of either.”

But quite aside from the consideration either of the number or the kind of laws on the statute

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books as affecting the question how far government has gone in America in restricting and restraining the individual, there is one consideration which Mr. Bryce seems to have overlooked, at least in his chapter on *laissez faire*, and which throws a very different light on the whole subject. I refer to the evasion and violation of the laws by the individual and to their non-enforcement by the government. In no respect more than in this does the real situation reveal itself; in nothing is it more effectually shown how slight has been the governmental interference in our land, how complete, on the contrary, has been the reign of the individual. Mr. Bryce mentions our laws regulating the sale of intoxicating beverages. But what single law, excepting the one providing for the payment of a license to do business,—what single law in reference to the whole liquor traffic—is complied with? From the adulteration of the drink to its sale to minors, the law is everywhere trampled and spat upon. Some of our laws do provide for an eight-hour work day on government work. But recent investigation showed that no pretense of a compliance with the law was ever made by contractors with the government. It was only after the most persistent demands by the labor organizations that it was agreed and announced through a megaphone (just before an election) that the law would be enforced. Again, it is true we have laws prohibiting the charging of excessive interest on money. Such laws have long

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been in existence in every State, but we all know how impotent they are. Every money-lender knows how to get around them. The recent exposures of the inhumanity of the "loan-sharks" in New York and Boston, in defiant violation of law, causing, in many cases, nervous break-down and even the suicide of their poor victims, show a state of things that makes our boasted civilization look like savage barbarism. We have laws, too, against child labor; but they have been practically dead letters. Every now and then the public is duly horrified to learn that a million children are being unlawfully employed in the mines and factories of our country.

There has been quite as marked a contrast between the law and its observance in the case of some of the railroads, insurance, and banking companies,—institutions the magnitude of whose business in this country dwarfs the total fiscal operations of many of the governments of the earth. Railroads, by means of discriminating rates and service have torn down the fortunes of one man and built up those of another, and have even built up one city at the expense of another; while out of the public lands unlawfully appropriated by them a State could be formed, so far as the extent of domain is concerned. We have seen the officials of insurance and banking companies creating out of the policy holders' money "yellow dog" funds (presumably because the law was silent on the subject of yellow dogs) and with them corrupting

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legislatures and contributing campaign funds to a political party with which to debauch elections. How many more kinds of irregularities, to put it mildly, the officers of these and other corporations have indulged in, first and last, will never be known. It is said that nine-tenths of an ice-berg is under water, and therefore never seen; so it may be with the operations of the railroad, insurance and banking companies. Thus we have an explanation of the paradox of large personal liberty in a network of law. If the reader insists that the word liberty as here used should have quotation marks around it, that, in fact, it means license, I will not quarrel with him, for I am of the same opinion.

What are we doing about it? [That in law enforcement and progressive legislation lie the safety and well-being of society the people are beginning to realize.] Just now the echoes of righteous complaints, stifled some years ago, are causing a stir in the land. Every reader of the newspapers knows this, though it is a pity he has not felt the good effects as yet in his market-basket, in the honesty of the goods he buys, in shorter hours of labor, and in some other things that have to do with his existence.

Whether this movement for better conditions is an awakening, as some enthusiastic people believe, or merely a turning over in our sleep, time will tell. We had an experience similar in many respects to the present more than a generation ago.

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At that time the air was thick with scandals growing out of eight years of malfeasance in office. Then, as now, the people were aroused, and by a great popular majority they chose a reformer to be their president. But a thimblerrigging Electoral Commission, wholly unauthorized by the Constitution, counted him out of office, and the people were deprived of a chance to have a house-cleaning.

Let us hope there will be no relapse in the movement now in progress. There is at least a show of earnestness about it. Men high in official position,—governors, congressmen, mayors and prosecutors, who in the past were never suspected of being disloyal to the “interests” that put them in office, are just now doing strange things, reminding one of the rat-killing feat of the Pied Piper. And after each act they stride across the stage of public notice, acknowledging with bows and smiles the plaudits of the people for sticking their spears into the Trust Dragons. We even have the amusing spectacle of constables and councilmen shaking their fists (through press interviews) at John D. Rockefeller. Occasionally a promoter of the trusts themselves, a federal judge, whose decisions have provoked resentment, a prominent lawyer, whose business it has been to defend employers against their employees, kick up their heels and announce their purpose to serve the people henceforth. At a meeting of governors in New Jersey approval was given to doctrines and measures

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which a few years ago were looked upon as the wild-eyed vagaries of irresponsible agitators, which no man high in office would have dared to champion, even if he had bothered his head about them.

Quite as noticeable is the change in the tone of our periodicals. Twenty-five years ago magazines were few, compared with the present number, and were published for the educated and leisure classes. They were transcendental rather than empirical; mundane matters were viewed at arm's length; to get down into the "mire of politics" was in bad form. But how different it is today! Dignity is cast to the winds. It is circulation that counts, and "muck-raking" has become the order of the day. And it is a good thing it has, too.

The exposure of inefficiency, waste and dishonesty is having a needful effect upon the voter. He is getting his eyes open. He is beginning to cast off party ties, even as he dropped out of torch-light processions thirty years ago. He is beginning to regard the office holder as his servant rather than his master; albeit, he manifests an astonishing degree of whimsicality in giving his orders. Will the initiative and recall sober him into stability, or will they make him even more fickle?

Some fifteen years ago a writer made the bold assertion, very much ridiculed at the time, that there had not been a real statesman in office since the Civil War. While such a declaration was somewhat hyperbolic, yet in the light of what has since taken place, considering, that is, the change of

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front of our office-holders and aspirants for office all along the line, there was much truth in the assertion. Looking back over years not so long gone by, we now see that men high in official position whom we called statesmen, were simply politicians; their chief concern was to retain, rather than to acceptably fill, office. Politics was a game to be played like chess, and the most skilful politician or party won. The great mass of voters being sunk in stupid partisanship, prejudices were more potent than principles. It is safe to say that, during the last quarter of a century, four out of five intelligent men of all parties have really been in favor of certain reforms,—the reasonable reduction of the tariff, an income tax, the election of United States Senators by popular vote, and a dozen other reforms; yet, at the behest of the powers that be in their respective parties, because of partisanship, in other words, they have been fighting each other on these very issues. Had men disfranchised themselves, they could scarcely have done more to perpetuate abuses and obstruct reforms than they have done by a blind adherence to party. Such being the attitude of the electorate, no new things of vital importance were considered by the office-holders. Afraid to grapple with the real issues of the day, they made a virtue of cowardice and boasted of being "stand-patters." Their speeches were of the "spread-eagle" sort, consisting of "glittering generalities" that pointed out no remedy. If anybody did rise to demand a specific

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remedy for wrongs, he and his followers were ridiculed and caricatured till they became discouraged and disgusted, and quit. Witness the fate of the Populists. Here was a body of men who had suffered and thought, and who had ideas about remedies. But they were charged, forsooth, with wearing whiskers, and so every cunning politician in the land that held office by grace of the "interests" clapped his hands and set the sycophants, together with the great amoeba class of voters, yelping after these Populists. And thus "safe and sane" politics prevailed, and "national honor" triumphed. Even at a much later time, in the face of a popular demand for action on the tariff, Congress voted to await the report of a committee of non-members and adjourned! It is still the proper strategy for an administration, the party in power, when the people clamor too loudly for relief, to hang the matter up in some such commission.

Thus, having been neither qualified nor obliged to take definite and summary action on problems that press for solution, our official class, especially in national politics, have learned little that is new. It is really amusing to see how some of our "statesmen" are taking hold of the real issues that confront the American people. How wildly they rush to the writings of the radicals to learn the very meaning of the terms initiative, referendum, recall and proportional representation!

In this matter of statesmanship we are destined, if I mistake not, to recast our ideas very material-

ly. At the present time, as already intimated, we are demanding that our office-holders actually do something for the good of the people, and in our impatience we are, in some parts of the country, taking matters into our own hands through the initiative and referendum. The keen intellect of Samuel J. Tilden was never more clearly manifested than in his masterful letter accepting the nomination to the presidency. In that letter he used the following language: "There is no necromancy in the operations of government. The homely maxims of every-day life are the best standards of its conduct." How true it is that there is no necromancy in government becomes evident upon reflection. The service of the people through common sense rules,—what more is there to it? In its practical conduct government is simply a matter of business. As that great mind, Thomas A. Edison, in a recent interview said, "Governments are just huge business concerns." While for the highest offices greater abilities are, as a rule, though not always, needed than for the lower ones, yet no occult or magic powers are required for the conduct of any office. Given an official imbued with a purpose to serve the people, and he will be required to exercise few powers that would not be called into play in the conduct of a business enterprise. Some years ago Battling Nelson, the pugilist, aspired to be mayor of his home town in Illinois, and he outlined a platform of principles on which he would conduct the office. That platform, in its

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answer to the needs of his city, would compare favorably with any that a so-called statesman might draft. Considering the fighting qualities of the Dane, it is very probable that had he become mayor he would have gone far in applying his platform.

But there is a further stage in the evolution of political ideas which will, when attained, make office-holding statesmanship seem rudimentary. So accustomed have we become to associating the idea of statesmanship with the incumbency of a high office that we have not as yet conceived of the legitimate scope of the term. Is not a state's man any one who serves his state in a political capacity? Are not the publicist and the orator who discuss political questions and advocate the application of sound principles in government, though they may never hold office, just as truly statesmen as is a United States Senator? Who will deny the appellation of statesman to the late Edward M. Shepard or to Louis Brandeis? A metropolitan newspaper refers to a former member of the United States Senate as an "ex-statesman;" and this notwithstanding that he continues to devote much of his time to the public welfare. I submit that this man is as truly a statesman today as when he was a Senator. Some men only become true statesmen after they have quit office and have no ambition to return; for then they see public questions in a different light and discuss them with more freedom and honesty.

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Pursuing this idea further, we will yet realize that not even great names, in or out of office, are alone to be coupled with statesmanship. And there will come a time when cities and towns will have their local statesmen. In a little city in Ohio there is a young woman who, though she has never held office, is yet an authority on the powers and duties of municipal officers, and is frequently consulted by them. Moreover, she is at the head of a civics study club, organized by her efforts; and she has settled more than one strike. Shall we not call this lady a stateswoman?

CHAPTER II

WHAT IS IT TO LIVE?

CITY life! We hear this expression every day, but what a misnomer, what a mockery the phrase is!) As if there could be any life where everything is objective and nothing subjective; where the individual is swallowed up in the mass; where automatic motion takes the place of individual action; where personal traits are not to be looked for, because of the atrophy, through non-use, of the powers needed to develop them.

Considerable attention has been paid in recent years to the evils, the dangers, of the city; to its intemperance, its immorality and its crime; to the concentration of its wealth, and the prevalence of its poverty; to the corruption of its politics and to its lawlessness. These phases all constitute pressing problems, some of which will be considered in subsequent pages of this volume. But I wish here to notice the one distinguishing evil of the city, an evil that is nothing less than a blight. In proportion to its importance, the attention given to it has been slight. Far worse, because more pervasive, more paralyzing and more hopeless than the Miseries of Paris, the evils set forth in Darkest Eng-

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land, the Shame of the Cities, or the poverty that explains How the Other Half Lives, is the absence of any real life by the automatons conventionally called men and women who make up the city's population.

What is life, and what is it to live? An eminent biologist has likened the human organism to a machine, that is, "a system in which chemical affinities, especially the union of the oxygen of the air with the materials of alimentation, produce heat, electricity and muscular work." And Virchow calls life "a particular kind of mechanics." These are excellent definitions, from the purely physical point of view, and, together, they would almost describe the city people and their motions. But man is, or should be, something more than a combination of chemical elements; and life is, or should be, more than mechanical motion. If this is not so, then biography is a fable, and history a waste of words. The truth is, that, as applied to man, the highest part and product of nature, it is personality that counts. (Personality is that which makes us say, of the object of the remark, "Here is this or that kind of man." Personality is that without which there is no real man. It is the embodiment of character and of charm, of reputation and of aspiration; and to live is to possess and develop all these attributes. Personality is man's greatest asset, for it is nothing less than the man himself. Take from man his personality and he loses his identity.

Now personality depends upon individuality, with which idea, in a secondary sense, it is synonymous. But how much of individuality do you find in a big city? Very little.)

When applied to the men of the city how much truth there is in the assertion of Jules Payot that "there is hardly one man in a thousand who has real personality. Nearly all men in their general conduct, as well as in their particular actions, are like marionettes drawn together by a combination of forces which are infinitely more powerful than their own. They no more live an individual life than does a piece of wood which is tossed into the torrent, and which is carried away without knowing either how or why." Much the same thought is expressed by Dr. Julia Seton Sears who, in her admirable little book, "Concentration," says: "It is interesting to notice how few there are who are really in control of their own minds. The field of consciousness is open to every kind of random, drifting thought forms; and many carry around minds which are ready to receive every negative thing that is projected into them either by individuals or conditions." How could it be otherwise when so much time is spent amid the roar and buzz and everchanging scenes of a big city?

Some time ago, under the caption "Buried Alive," Collier's Weekly had this to say, in part, of a very general type of city man:

("From earliest youth he has worked in offices, and twenty years of that atmosphere have subdued

him. Those trailing years have enriched him with a slightly venomous human interest in those about, the timidity born of routine indoor work, the servility to those in authority, the scorn of those who work in ways a little more menial than that of his own clerical rut. He is now middle-aged, mature, perfected. He has become pussy footed, has acquired a soft voice, a purring, apologetic manner. He walks around as if on tiptoe, peering over desks, gently intruding wherever he scents the faint beginnings of an office scandal. In his soothing, low pitched voice he drops venom into each waiting ear as he goes up and down the office. In his work there is little to which he looks back with pride. A thousand weeks of filing cards, hammering typewriters, adding up columns of figures, have not left him with blithe memories of something accomplished, something done. One thing for him they have done; they have thoroughly tamed his spirit. There are no adventurous quests in him. There is never an evening when his spirit will annoy him by yearning to do impossible things. Better than an animal cage of thick iron bars, or a prison cell where the pads are fat and impenetrable, is the modern office for taming the roving blood and reducing to orderliness the leaping joy of life.")

(Quite another type than this subdued man, to whose credit it may at least be said that he earns his daily bread, is that smart fellow, the "four-flusher." He fares much better than the tamed of-

fice man, in fact, waxes fat—until he oversteps the line between unconscionable and unlawful and gets into the hands of the federal authorities. He flourished in increasing numbers from the time of his advent some twenty years ago down to a recent time, since which period the aforesaid federal authorities have thinned his ranks somewhat. He is, generally speaking, a well-dressed, round, smooth-faced chap with fishy, impersonal eyes, and a turn-down mouth, expressive of cynicism. He is by nature an Ishmaelite and a freebooter, and is quite impartial with respect to his victims; all is fish that comes to his net. He is not a human being in the sense that Abraham Lincoln was a human being, for he has no heart. His whole stock in trade is bluff, on which, as Eva Tanguay sings, "half the world is run."

Of course, bluff or "front," is not limited to practitioners such as the one just described; nor is it confined entirely to the city, but is to be found wherever men are sailing under false colors. Its most common employment, however, in this commercial age, is in reference to one's wealth. "If you have not a virtue, assume it," has many followers along this line, these days. If there were as many millionaires as men who contrive to be so considered, they would be as numerous as sparrows. If I were to frame a new definition of millionaire it would be: A person worth \$30,000 and who runs a bluff at a million. A few more years of bluff and this term millionaire will become

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cheap and lose its meaning, as many another brave word which started out well has lost its meaning.

If we take the newspapers for it, about the only people of the city who possess an individuality are multi-millionaires, star ball-players and champion pugilists, together (in a minor degree) with the higher city officials. All other citizens are on a dead level, with respect to the figure they cut; you rarely hear of them unless as victims of a holocaust, as persons charged with crime, or as parties to a salacious scandal.

Yet it would be a mistake to make individuality depend upon either fame or fortune. If it did so depend, most of us would be doomed to remain nonentities, no matter where we pass our days. It is not because people are poor that they lack individuality. Many a man in the country or village that possesses no more property than does the average city man has a pronounced, even picturesque, personality. He is known and duly appreciated in a wide circle for his integrity, his sound judgment, his wit, or for his eccentricities, and his fund of good stories. And the local weekly paper takes note of his comings and goings. No, neither fame nor fortune should be considered essential to individuality. But individuality and real living do imply being counted, being taken note of—being somebody, in short—by reason of distinct traits of character. It is through the exercise and influence of his traits of character that a man should impress himself upon the community in which he

lives. Without these qualities, or if they be in an atrophied condition, he is nothing.

If you would make a man a dog, treat him like a dog. We do not like to take note of blanks, either in lotteries or in lives, but if we will be at the pains of looking into lives that are but types of thousands of other lives, we will understand why there are so many human dogs in a big city—and stray dogs at that. Do they not receive much the same consideration, or rather, lack of consideration, accorded to stray dogs? Who knows your citizen, the vaunted product of civilization? Who cares for him? What does he amount to? And what does he get out of life? When a man receives no attention, and is of no interest to his fellow men, his personal relations of necessity cease, or are greatly curtailed. He feels his loneliness; he realizes his insignificance; all individuality is starved out of him, and he drops out of sight. He virtually becomes an outcast. With him it is sheer neglect that represses "noble rage" and freezes "the genial current of the soul." So far as the sentiment of commiseration is concerned the poet of today could find far greater inspiration for an elegy in a city cemetery than in a country churchyard. Says Luther Burbank, the plant-wizard: "When the cactus had to contend with hungry beasts and the heat of the desert, it developed spines and a thick hide. Underfed, underpaid, ignorant and helpless folk, peopling the deserts of our cities, go through identically the same read-



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justment. They develop barbed, suspicious, embittered natures." Your citizen has a right to vote, and is flattered, near election time, by smiling office-seekers. Newspapers sometimes tickle his vanity by referring to him (in the abstract, however), as the "sovereign voter." But all this is cold comfort; he feels himself a cipher notwithstanding.

Like the despairing cry,

"Water, water everywhere,
Nor any drop to drink,"

could well be the city man's wail, "People, people, everywhere, nor any one I know." For it is scarcely an exaggeration to say that outside his family (if he has a family) he really knows no one, and if a business man, he only half knows his family, because of blunted sensibilities or diverted thoughts. Someone has well said that no man can be a good husband or father who is absorbed in money-making. His business associates he knows in a merely diplomatic way. The ordinary citizen is almost a stranger among the half million or more of his fellow beings. He has, sometimes, a nominal acquaintance with a small circle, but even such an acquaintance is more circumscribed than that of the average village resident in his native town.

With only such a shallow acquaintance with one's fellow man, is it any wonder that no distinguishing traits of character are to be discovered,

or even expected in city men; that all are like the derby hats they wear, very much the same? When an individual, the man from the country or small town, appears on the scene, he is apt to be considered a "character;" and when contrasted with the standardized beings about him, he is a character. Spend an hour at an Inter-urban station observing the people who get off the cars, and you will understand. Note the smack of individuality about them. Their clothes may be of the style of the early seventies, but you do not doubt the importance of these people "back home." They may be "Rubes," but they get more of *real* life out of one month than the city man gets out of a year. And they differ one from another, too; you can compare them. But suppose the city man should undertake to compare the characters of his neighbors, if he be so fortunate as to know the name of those who live three doors from him. What a farce the whole proceeding! It would be like comparing one blank piece of paper with another.

The fact is, the city man does not know his neighbors in any real sense. There is an indescribable something, perhaps it is the vastness and the vagueness of a big city, that not only minimizes the individual, but shrouds him a veil of incomprehensibility. There is a bewilderment in numbers. As, while watching the simultaneous performances taking place in a three-ringed circus, we get but a confused impression of what each performer is doing, so, in looking at the kaleidoscopic move-

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ments of the men and women who make up a big city, we focus little attention on individuals. Or, again, in the sense of mass, the city is the organism of which the citizen is but a cell. In this sense also, a forest may well illustrate the city, and the tree the individual. As the forest robs the tree of attention, so the city takes the attention from the citizen, the man.

Hence it is that in a city one does not know his neighbor, and, if an old resident, the chances are he does not care to know him; if he did, he could not. Any attempt in a city to become acquainted with one's neighbor seems to be in bad taste. City people, even professing Christians, seldom speak without the formality of an introduction. To do so, unless at a Rescue Mission, would be a breach of etiquette; yet in a nearby church the clergyman stands Sunday after Sunday, conventionally preaching the brotherhood of man. Occasionally a young clergyman—generally one recently from a small town—inwardly astonished at the coldness and indifference of city people and at their lack of fellowship, will hire a large tent, and, pitching it on a vacant lot, seek by sheer novelty to enthuse his audience. Vain effort, and one speedily abandoned. The exhorter soon finds that he is dealing with a class of people very different from those he swayed in the little town he came from.

Deprived of that influence which in a smaller community he could exert, and of the importance resulting therefrom, the city man loses not only

the picturesqueness of individuality, but all charm of personality. He becomes a mere shuttle moving, by the force of necessity, to and fro between home and workshop, store or office. And it matters little whether it be one or the other. Except for his better clothes, his more prosperous appearance, and a little more elbow-room, the office man who takes a late car down town differs but little from the sad-eyed, sullen factory hand, who, having to take an earlier car, is packed against his fellow toilers like a sardine in a box. In either case there is the same dumb nobody.

Do not try to start a conversation with one of these better dressed men. You will be considered "fresh" if you do. Should you so far forget yourself and the eternal proprieties as to try to converse with one of these conventional human atoms, you will receive no notice. You might as well have addressed a post. Should you persist in your effort to be sociable and make a second remark, look out! for the probabilities are you will get a reply so gruff and short as to make you feel that you have committed an unpardonable offense. No Reuben, come to town, ever evinced greater outward signs of distrust toward a would be congenial stranger than do these presumably sophisticated denizens of the city.

It is only just to the manual toiler—a term that has come, though improperly, to be synonymous with "working man"—to say that the foregoing strictures do not apply so fully to him. The labor-

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ing classes, so-called, are the only city beings who approach the country and small-town people in respect to sociability and sincerity. The factory worker (unless he be one of those chaps who is obsessed with "class consciousness," in which case he is apt to be rather grouchy, for he hates the world and himself thrown in) will very frequently respond to a stranger's advances, and be friendly, and that without reserve. Not so with the soft-handed business man, bank, store, or office clerk. He stands on what he mistakes for dignity, and before a stranger can get his attention, he must show his credentials,—good clothes, and at least an assumption of equality in the business world. If the reader is here prompted to excuse the business man on the ground of his "busy-ness," I reply that while this may partially account for his lack of sociability and politeness, it does not deny it. The fact remains just the same; this is all that I contend, which is enough.

The naturalist tells us of fish that lose their eyes because they live in the waters of caverns where all is dark; the physiologist affirms that all one need do to lose the use of an arm is to carry it in a sling for a long time; and the evolutionist emphasizes the part played by environment in the development of all life. It is the violation of this law of exercise, this law which says to us: "Use or lose," that accounts for the loss to the city man of very much that history and biography, as well as the noblest ideals of our common humanity, teach us should

characterize the real man. Indeed, if one were to accept the unique theory of the late Henry Drummond concerning the nature of the human soul, as propounded in his "Natural Law in the Spiritual World," he would find much to convince him that the seasoned city man has no soul; that his soul died of starvation.

"Then hit the trail and follow it adown the western slope;
This city life may be all right for those whose eyes are blind,
Or those who never see beyond the daily, dulling grind.
But herding round a snubbing post from eight till half past
five,

Has never kept the outdoor heart of vagabonds alive.
Here every man is for himself, the devil for them all;
And few have pity for the weak who by the wayside fall,
They're branded with the city's iron, in body, heart and soul;
On every hand I see them strive, with money for their goal.
But outward where the sun goes down is room for you and
me,

And there the men are what their God intended they should
be.

This old corral is far too small for my six feet of brawn,
So I shall take the Western trail before another dawn.
And all I ask of future years is that my feet may stray,
Along some sun-kissed range until the final round-up day."

—HELEN WASHER.

CHAPTER III

SUPERFICIALITY AND FRIVOLITY

IN an address delivered a year or two ago before a graduating class a distinguished statesman deplored the superficiality of the times. It was a seasonable theme. For there has never been a time in our history when serious study and sober thought were so demanded of all our people as they are today. Insidious evils are preying upon the moral body of society—grievous ills, relating, for example, to “the lowering of the ideals of marriage and the substitution of a temporary contract for that permanent union which is necessary, to take no higher ground for the nurture and education of the next generation; the commercial employment of married women, resulting to a serious extent, in the neglect and disruption of family life and the displacement and unemployment of men; the uncontrolled multiplication of the degenerate, who threaten to swamp in a few generations, the purer elements of our race . . . the prevalence of vice, the increase of insanity and feeble-mindedness, and their exhaustless drain upon free-flowing charity and the national purse; the wide circulation of debasing books and papers which imply the existence, to a deplorable extent,

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of low ideals amongst a multitude of readers; and some of the manifold evils of our industrial system which cause the hideous congestion of slumdom with its irreparable loss of the finer sensibilities, of beauty, sweetness and light."

Nor is careful thought less called for in the consideration of remedies. Political innovators, sensible of the wrongs in "present conditions," to use a current platitude, and aware that the people do not get a "square deal," but unmindful of the fact that under our form of government it is their own fault, in the long run, if they do not, are proposing to make the horse drink by means of the Initiative, Referendum and Recall. A New Nationalism and a New Democracy also are being preached. And now, more portentous than all else, the spectre of a capital-labor war, which for forty years has occasionally appeared to disturb our complacency, is assuming the flesh and blood aspect of reality, and is standing over us with threatening mien, an apparition that seems half anarchistic, half socialistic.

But is not our Nero strumming the lyre while Rome is burning? What indication is there in the absorption of men and women in chewing gum, exchanging comic picture-cards, crowding moving picture shows, attending card clubs and reading inane novels whose sole reason for existence is the author's need of money—just as a shoddy suit of clothes is made to sell—what indication is there that we have any problems to solve? Yet are not

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these and similar avocations, the rule rather than the exception in our great cities today? While it is true that many books on reform are published now-a-days, besides magazines that are full of the "literature of exposure," yet for every one such publication read there are scores of the other kind, as inquiry at the bookstore and the library will disclose. If it be thought that a civilization in which flourished a James Whitcomb Riley, a William D. Howells, a Thomas Edison, and many men of like eminence, can not be in a very bad way, it should be remembered that it was in the decadent days of old Greece and Rome that some of the best examples of literature, philosophy and art were given to the world. But we need not go back to ancient times nor to foreign lands for illustration of this truth. Right here in Boston today one side of the city is writing and painting, while the other side is writhing and panting. Indeed, Boston, in her history, is a composite Athens and Rome in all their glory and in much of their degeneracy.

The superficiality of the city is owing, primarily, to the lack of real life there. The man who really lives, is, in the main, a serious man; his thoughts and his conversation are worth while. Not so with automatons; not so with butterflies. Shut out from responsibilities in large affairs, realizing his impotence, conscious of the lack of weight of his opinions on matters of moment, the city dweller descends to trivial things. His consciousness of

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his own littleness finds expression in his conversation, however much he may strive, by mock dignity and austerity, to "run a bluff" at importance. And what are the topics of his conversation? Little things. For instance, where you hear one citizen talking intelligently, and as one having thoughtful views, on the fundamental questions of human welfare, you will hear twenty indulging in frivolous talk, and this whether it be on the street or in the home, the latest peril of Pauline being a favorite topic in the latter place. As for wit, we had a current specimen of it a year or two ago in the brilliant changes that were run on "skiddoo," "twenty-three," and "stung."

Of the topics of conversation in society, when on parade, Mr. Ralph Pulitzer has this to say: "Plays are touched on, but acting is ignored; operas are discussed, but only for the personal performances of celebrated singers, not for the music of the operas themselves. Politics are discussed only so far as they affect the Stock Exchange or the race-track. Politicians are, of course, beneath discussion, save in the rare cases of male members of society who have answered the call for gentlemen to enter politics for their purification, and who have invariably turned out the most pointedly practical politicians of the lot. Painting is discussed only to the extent of the latest fashionable foreign artist's portrait of the latest fashionable native society woman. Literature is less fortunate, being considerably talked about in the shape of the latest fic-

tion; but all the talk confines itself to the plot and the character; the style is left severely to itself. Science is discussed only as represented by the merits of competing types of automobiles. Statesmanship figures in the conversation only as manifested in the iniquities of a tariff system which makes possible the New York Customs inspection; and the most effective methods of nullifying this system (being also touched on) . . . The market is the one inspiration that can transmute general loquacity into general eloquence. It is not merely that the future of a stock is like the future of the soul, a subject on which any one man's guess is as tenable as any other man's theory. But practically every man present has learned his stock quotations at his mother's knee. He knows 'The Street,' its traditions, its whole history, a great deal better than he knows the history of his country."

Your citizen seems to be characterized by petty curiosity as well as by petty conversation. He is curious over the manner of applying pitch to the pavement; the size of the new numbers being placed on houses; the newest kind of lamps on automobiles; and it is not an uncommon sight to see a dozen citizens critically inspecting some new-fangled contrivance on one of these machines, making momentous observations the while. Who has not had to take to the curb to get by a crowd of men monopolizing the sidewalk just to see some advertising youth inside a store window seesaw a neck-

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tie around his collar? The fellow who designed that diagram on the package of the Inner Seal food preparations must have had in mind this mouse-like curiosity of the city people.

Enduring a hopeless from-hand-to-mouth existence, calloused by the stereotyped scenes of artificial creation, and shut out from the inspiration of nature's works, cynicism comes all too often, to take the place of idealism in the city man's mind. Who can fail to understand Hepworth when, in his "Brown Studies," he says: "I am not the same man that I was in New York. I lived so long among all sorts of creatures there that I found myself growing cynical; but since I have slept in the woods, where everything is honest, loyal to its destiny, and true to the high purpose for which it was created, I notice that the simplicity and trustfulness and buoyancy of my boyhood are coming back."

Of course, "simplicity and trustfulness and buoyancy" will come back when they are given a chance, since they are our primal inheritance. Notice the change, after a year or two, in the character of the man who retires from business, quits the city, and goes to his country home. With the city dweller, however, the case is very different. Anything for him but the crime of appearing "green." What remnant of naturalness is still left to him out of his inheritance from country-born ancestors is shut in by a sort of storm-door of bluff, through which his fellow man is rarely permitted

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to enter. To betray emotion is to invite a derisive smile from the man at his elbow. For instance, to show sympathy for the messenger boy who has fallen from his wheel, and especially to start to his assistance, would be chicken-hearted. If you are a true city man, you will stand by and grin. It is so comical, you know, to see a fellow plunge over his wheel on to the stone pavement. And that ragged half-starved man sitting on the park bench or lounging in the shelter-house, during the momentary absence of the policeman—who of the city's hurrying throng ever stops to minister to him? Were one to do so, the recipient of the attention would think himself dreaming, so amazing would be such an instance of Christian concern. Yet a goodly per cent. of the passers-by are "Christians." Even the Salvation Army, that unique organization at first looked at askance by dignified clergymen, and then welcomed by them as just the thing to look after the offal of humanity, while they themselves courted the well-to-do, —even the Salvation Army has now too much red tape about it to bother very much with such unfortunates.

There are more love songs sung, more love sermons preached and less true love in the world today than there has been in a hundred years before. And all because men and women have been flocking more and more to the city, where there is no time for love, where there are too many distractions, and where simulation and synicism take its place.

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No sooner is a new sentimental song sung than its parody chases it across the continent. It was certainly a city chap who changed "All the world loves a lover" into "All the world laughs at a lover."

There is, to be sure, a sort of charity for Jesus' sake, a calculating, or at best, sense-of-duty kind; but little enough of innate, spontaneous, no-reward-expected, kindness. Even among women, especially educated women, of the rising generation, this absence of heart is noticeable. A ladies' magazine recently deplored, with much evidence adduced, the cold, artificial, and unsympathetic natures of the young women who come home from college.

The increasing attention given to dress and especially to amusements—the fondness for the latter fast becoming a craze—also emphasizes the city's renunciation of serious purposes, that is, in the making of men and women, and its abandonment to the superficial and the ephemeral. While we are fond of saying that money does not make the man, we must all admit that in our land today it is the one thing that differentiates man from man, the possession most prized, even if not most praised; and when, though thus esteemed, its accumulation is abandoned as hopeless, recklessness is apt to follow. "What is the use of trying to save money?" reasons the citizen in ordinary circumstances. "No investment can be made with what little I may, by rigid self-denial, accumulate."

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Where a front foot of residence property costs more than a whole acre of farm land in the country, and where the ownership of a business calls for the investment of a fortune, the method employed in bygone days of getting rich by saving is impossible. The most the average city man may hope to do is to provide for a "rainy day," which has come to mean a short period of idleness or sickness. But few of us like to think of "rainy days." So the money goes: for necessary household expenses first, and then, more and more for fine clothes and amusements. The foregoing remarks apply almost wholly to the so-called prosperous classes, that is, to those who are making a comfortable living. In the case of the very poor, the order of expenses is likely to be reversed—amusements and pie and cake coming first, and flour and meat second.

In the matter of dress, as in everything else, the conventional attitude is taken. Little or no thought is given to what cut or color of raiment best becomes the wearer. To insist on wearing what really becomes one, regardless of the prevailing style, would smack of an individuality, which, as we have seen, the city resident does not, as a rule, possess. Men and women are governed by one iron rule, namely, the rule imposed by a clique of fashion-makers in New York and Paris, for whose financial interest it is, of course, to make radical changes, at least in the ear-marks of clothing from year to year. And how these dictators of style must laugh

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at some of the effects they produce! For the young man who prides himself on being in "the swim" to be seen wearing a sack coat, though it be in good condition, that is an inch or two shorter than the New York fashion maker has decreed he should wear, or for the young (or middle-aged?) woman to go out with a hat, that, however becoming, is of last year's style, would almost amount to a disgrace. It would be a source of humiliation, at all events. The impression is not here intended to be given that all city people are thus weak votaries of the fashion plate; but it is undeniably true that nearly all who have the money to follow the erratic decrees of fashion do so.

Occasionally society people will assert a purpose to throw off the yoke and dress as becomes them. My paper publishes an account of a movement by Chicago society women against a uniform style of dress, sought to be imposed on them by the Chicago Dressmakers' Club. They say that "women are meant to be pretty and are going to be." Much power to them! But I am afraid the dressmakers will win the battle.

In the line of literature and of amusements, plays, shows, and the like we find the paradox of a craving for the exciting, sensational, and fantastic, along with a state of mind that takes the most astonishing things as a matter of course, and is not surprised into admiring anything. The portrayal of human nature, that feature which makes the classics, whether plays or books, so valued, finds

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little expression in the stuff that sells in the city today, notwithstanding that many of these productions are advertised to possess "human interest," as the catchy phrase puts it. The sensational and the dramatic—how the papers glare with the words!—the improbable and the impossible, is the style of presentation that pleases. It is by these traits that the novels of the day win popularity. The mix-up (one can hardly call it plot) of the story abounds in the improbable and sensational—a guess and a thrill on every page. Still, it will probably be a relief to the reading public when the last precious stone stolen from a Hindu Raja has been restored, and when the last instance of love-making and marriage of first cousins shall have been recorded. Let us hope, too, that melodramatic players will soon understand that profanity on the stage is not wit, but only a lumber-Jack's substitute for it. All honor to the memory of the late Ezra Kendall whose boast it was that he never resorted to profanity to win a laugh.

This craze for the unreal, the fantastic, may be attributed, in the main, to two causes, one local, the other general; one incident to the city, the other to the century. First, it is undoubtedly true that the stern realities of existence in a city where, as a rule, all must work or starve, together with the hopeless, tread-mill, grind which the vast majority of toilers are forced through, year in and year out, seem to call for a relaxation just as opposite to their experience as their imagination can conceive.

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These people, therefore, crave the exhilaration, the ecstasy, that comes of seeing, and of reading about, the spectacular and unreal. Secondly, the wonderful inventions and discoveries in this generation, all of which have been stepping-stones to others quite as important, have rendered us very credulous. Nothing startles us now; on the contrary, everything is accepted as a matter of course. The whole spectacle of man's achievements tends to convert our minds into a sort of dreamland wherein everything becomes possible. Nature sets no limitations, we may do what we please. Wise-acres have pronounced the boat unsinkable, so "on with the dance."

It is on a public thus deluded that get-rich-quick fakirs fatten; that "electric" and "magnetic" healers flourish; and that scamps who advertise to grow hair on a bald head, or to raise the dying, thrive. How many millions of dollars have been taken from the pockets of the too credulous by these rascals during the last twenty-five years!

It is with a public thus deluded, too, that mere notoriety so frequently wins over solid worth in politics. The masses today are "easy-marks" for the advertising politician. Formerly an office-seeker who bragged and blustered was not taken seriously; he was regarded as a barking dog that never bites. But now the successful candidate is almost as much an advertised product as is a breakfast food. And how many voters are really influenced, though unconsciously, by a name that sounds

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good to them! Politicians have not yet, like many stage people, adopted attractive names, but fortunate is the candidate in a big city whose name is Tip Tyler, or Nick Kik. He is sure to win over Henry Smith or George White. Better public servants will be chosen when the voters make it their business, through committees, or associations, to know something of the character and qualifications of a candidate, and insist, where the office is peculiarly political, that he tell in black and white what he stands for.

Finally, it is to a public thus deluded that effective appeals are made by madly ambitious men who, like Cleon of old, go up and down the land flattering the people and shouting their own virtues, real or assumed, from the house-tops, while they misrepresent the records of more worthy men in office; who loudly demand that the people should rule when it is the last thing in the world they really want the people to do; who vehemently declare for righteousness in politics, but who, when in office, violate nearly every principle of honor. Of this kind of cry that the people should rule, an independent paper sagaciously remarks that it has "fooled many nations, and it is fooling Americans. It is the biggest tickler the world has ever manufactured. It flatters everybody, and in the exultation of that flattery, the many fall down and worship the howler, rub their foreheads in the dust and sing the chorus into the ground, and call themselves blessed because of the coming of so great a

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prophet, one able and willing to read their minds and kind enough to tell them that they must rule, through him." Have we not much evidence in present day politics of the truth of Barnum's saying that "the American people love to be humbugged?" But, as for Lincoln's dictum that "you can fool part of the people all the time, and all the people part of the time, but you can't fool all the people all the time"—it sounds fine, and is true; but does it amount to much in practice? As a matter of fact, the demagogue does not find it at all necessary to fool all the people all the time; a majority will serve his purpose, and it need not be made up of the same people that were fooled before, either.

I can find no more pertinent thought in concluding this chapter than that of Frederick Denison Maurice when, in comparing our own times with the degenerate days of Athens, he said: "The passion for novelty had eaten up all other and better passions in them (the Athenians)—all reverence, all faith, all freedom. It is a very awful lesson. We are not one-half as clever as the Athenians were. But men have lived among us, and deeds have been done among us as noble as any they could boast of. We have been a more practical people than they were; perhaps less prone to speculation, but more successful in hard, tough business. Depend upon it, all qualities are in the greatest danger of perishing; depend upon it we shall become petty and frivolous, and stupid with-

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al, as we learn to spend our time as the Athenians spent theirs. There are men among us who do. They go about from club to club, and house to house, and street to street, saying 'What now? What is the last, the very newest thing? Who can tell us? That which was heard two or three days, or two or three hours ago is stale. We must have something fresh. That is what we are hunting for. Such men are the most miserable creatures that this earth brings forth. The past is nothing to them, nor the future. They live in the moment that is passing. Their life is absorbed into that. And do not let any of us say that we are not in danger of becoming such men as these. We are all in danger of it; men of all parties and professions, men whose language sounds most serious, as well as those who never speak of any world but this.'

CHAPTER IV

CHILDHOOD IN THE CITY

THE greater number of our large cities are so new, at least in their vastness, that comparatively few of the older residents thereof are in all essentials complete products of the city; and even those who are partially so have been influenced in some measure by contact with the constant accretions from the country.

But what of the myriad of boys and girls that are today wholly a product of the city, especially of the big city? Born, reared and cooped up within the walls of apartment houses, or at best in dwellings without yards in which they can play their games, as is the case with an ever-increasing number, their whole lives spent in the city, what sort of men and women will they become? This is one of the most momentous questions that our civilization must answer. That there is a difference between these children and country bred children admits of no doubt. That the clothes of city children of well-to-do parents are of better appearance and that their wits are keener than were those of their grandparents in their youth is beyond question. But is the fibre of their character as

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strong, as reliable? Will they become as real men and women? It might sound like a harsh judgment to decide in the negative, for until perhaps one or two more generations of city life have given their additional evidence, judgment would be premature; and yet there is not wanting strong evidence on the subject even in our day.

In his thoughtful book "The Future Citizen," F. A. Myers quotes a London scientist as saying that "life in a big city makes children quick but not intelligent, hastening the development of the brain unnaturally. They become superficial, alert, but not observant, constructive and reasoning; excitable but devoid of enthusiasm, chances destroyed for being clever; blasé, fickle, discontented, bird-witted, and, properly speaking, seeing nothing, for time is not permitted to delve, bewildered at the multitude of things. In fact, life in a city is essentially dangerous to the child-boy—corrupting, so prone is a boy to be led off. The city attractions interfere with his best intellectual development as it does with his physical progress, leading off his attention from his best efforts. The tendency is to put temptations in his way that lead him down rather than help him up."

The almost uniform testimony of parents whose experience has been such as to qualify them for an intelligent opinion is that "the city is a poor place in which to bring up children." Unless we are ready to admit that the painting is more real than the scene it represents, that the artificial is superior

to the natural, we must deny that children who are so much the creatures of an artificial atmosphere as are city children, can become the real men and women that country children can. It is not implied here that children should grow up wild, their characters to be left like a neglected garden in which weeds may choke out the fruits; but simply that contact with nature should be allowed in order that, like apples kissed into ripened perfection by the life-giving sun, they may develop into real men and women.

The truth is, we are far more creatures of circumstances than architects of our own fortunes, "inspirational books," however well meaning, to the contrary notwithstanding. I cannot forbear at this point, because of its relevancy to my whole theme, a somewhat lengthy quotation from "Force and Matter," that profound work of Ludwig Büchner, a pioneer, with Darwin and Wallace, in the field of evolutionary discoveries. Büchner says:

"Now just as nations as a whole are dependent for their history and characteristics on external conditions of Nature and the internal ones of society under which they have grown up, thus is the individual man no less a product and sum total of external natural forces, not merely in his entire physical and moral being, but also in each single department of his activity. This activity depends first and foremost on his whole mental individuality and special characteristics. But what is this

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individuality which acts so decisively on man, and in each single instance quite apart from additional external forces, fixes his line of conduct within such narrow bounds as only to leave an exceedingly small scope for the exercise of his free will? What is this individuality but the necessary product of innate physical and mental qualities, in connection with training, teaching, example, custom, rank, fortune, sex, nationality, climate, soil, conditions of time and living, and so on? Man is subject to the same law as every plant and every animal—a law with the clearly defined features of which we have already met in the primitive world. As the plant depends for its existence, its size, its form and beauty upon the ground in which it is rooted; as the animal, great or small or large, wild or domesticated, beautiful or hideous, is the creature of the external conditions under which it has grown up; as an entozoon ever changes as it passes into the interior of another animal; thus each man is no less a product of similar external circumstances, accidents, and arrangements, and can therefore by no means be set down as such a mentally independent being endowed with a free will, as moralists and philosophers are in the habit of presenting him. He who brings with him into the world an innate tendency to benevolence, compassion, conscientiousness, love of justice, and so on, is in most instances cut out for a good moralist, supposing that bad training or adverse conditions of life do not forcibly subdue that tendency; whilst on the

other hand a congenital proclivity to melancholy, or indolence, or frivolity, or vanity, or arrogance, or avarice, or sensuality, or intemperance, or gambling, or violence, can, as a rule, be neither controlled nor checked by any kind of will or imagination." Perhaps Büchner goes too far when he denies the power of the will to at least check congenital or inborn evil propensities, but the preponderating influence of heredity and environment over mere will seems clear.

So far as parental influence goes, a child is, generally speaking, either doubly blessed or doubly cursed. If his parents are honest, sober, sensible and thrifty, they not only endow him with good blood, but with a good home as well, and train him in the way he should go. If, on the other hand, the parents are vicious, ignorant and shiftless, they not only taint the child's blood but neglect his welfare also.

The fundamental evil, not of society, not of the state merely, but of the human race which builds society and the state, is "bad human protoplasm," producing "scrub-stock." And the great work of the race, if it is to advance, is its own regeneration through all those means which produce "a more healthy, more vigorous, more able humanity." But a discussion of those means would lead us into the field of what is known to this generation as Eugenics.

How different must be the human being that passes his life, from the cradle to the grave, in a

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great city from one that thus lives in the country! Marked as is the countenance of the country man from that of the city man, his modes of thought and traits of character are scarcely less so.

These distinguishing peculiarities begin to manifest themselves in childhood. That varieties exist even among city children, that they are not all cast in the same mold, though more and more they approach a uniform type, is conceded. Some are the children of rich parents, some are the offspring of moral and cultured parents; others are the progeny of ignorant and depraved parents. If, as Dr. Holmes said, the training of a child should begin with its grandparents, we need not doubt the influence of parental circumstances on a child's destiny. Allowing, therefore, for differences growing out of the financial, intellectual and moral status of his parents, we first note the artificial cast of the city child's mind, his propensity to talk only of the mechanical things about him. Nearly everything he sees or has to do with is man-made. He is a stranger to the works of nature, because he sees little or nothing of them. Of actual contact with food plants and with animals he has had no experience; and consequently he knows nothing of their inception, growth and culture. Not having them about him, the property of his parents, he does not have them to look after, and so misses an early and valuable lesson in industry. "Books are not the only agency of intellectual development; there is the experience of industry

. . . The comradeship of nature on a farm, the sense of strict faithfulness and loyalty, are gained in the country, and the work there is a training of hands and heart and brain—to plan, to will, to work, to execute.”

Shut out from the real, even though unconscious communion with nature in her moods that change with the seasons, the city child loses something that no daily view of tall buildings, however stately and ornate, can compensate for; and that something is a sense of the sublimity of nature, the contemplation of which deepens, while it makes more sincere, the characters of men. The solemn forest, the babbling brook, the expanse of meadow, the golden grain, and solitude for contemplation of them all, are not of the city. But in their stead is a desert of crowded houses and business blocks, around which swirl the sickening smell of automobiles and the choking fumes of factories. Even the birds of the city have come to be only those dull-colored, songless, pugnacious sparrows that so typify all the rest of what takes the place of life there.

The storm-door of bluff and bluster, referred to in a former chapter, is early erected in front of the city child's character. A manifestation of this is to be seen, or rather heard, in the tone of the language he uses. This speech, a combination of Irish brogue with Bowery tough, has within recent years become so common as to threaten the very sound of our language. Formerly confined to the

confab of street gamins, among whom it seemed natural and was amusing, this tone has now become so common as to be nauseating. It habitually characterizes the speech of many of the younger mechanics, salesmen and even bank clerks, while it is not altogether absent from the voice of young women. The use of this debased form of speech seems to proceed partly from moral cowardice born of a fear of being natural and partly from a silly belief that it makes the user of it appear worldly-wise—the same feeling that swells the chest of a boy of fourteen when he is seen (though not by his father!) smoking a cigar. To be simple and natural in speech is thought befitting only to the clodhopper.

With no playground near the house on which to engage in sports, and with no routine of chores to do, the city boy, especially during school vacations, is sorely tried for proper amusement or occupation. My city reader, if you are the parent of a boy, how often you have heard that boy go through the house distractedly wailing, "What can I do, what can I do?" The movement for public playgrounds in the city, while very worthy, will necessarily fall short of expectations; for not only must the playgrounds always be pitifully inadequate in number and size to accommodate the thousands of city children, but even where the playground is nearby, there is that happy-go-lucky trait in human nature that prompts ten children to play in the dirty and noisy streets to one that goes

to the decorous playground.

For lack of suitable pastime the boy, whether schoolboy or factory boy, is too frequently lured into vice, crime and extravagance; evils which in after life he must conquer, if he is to amount to anything. Of this want of proper recreation and its effect upon a certain class of young factory workers in Chicago, Jane Addams says: "This inveterate demand of youth that life shall afford a large element of excitement is in a measure well-founded. We know of course that it is necessary to accept excitement as an inevitable part of recreation, that the first step in recreation is 'that excitement which stirs the worn or sleeping centers of a man's body and mind.' It is only when it is followed by nothing else that it defeats its own end, that it uses up strength and does not create it. In the actual experience of these boys the excitement has demoralized them and led them into law-breaking. When, however, they seek legitimate pleasure, and say with great pride that they are 'ready to pay for it,' what they find is legal but scarcely more wholesome,—it is still merely excitement. 'Looping the loop' amid shrieks of simulated terror and dancing in disorderly saloon halls, are perhaps the natural reactions of a day spent in noisy factories and in trolley cars through the distracting streets, but the city which permits them to become the acme of pleasure and recreation to its young people, commits a grievous mistake.

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"May we not assume that this love of excitement, this desire for adventure, is basic, and will be evinced by each generation of city boys as a challenge to their elders? And yet those of us who live in Chicago are obliged to confess that last year there were arrested and brought into court fifteen thousand young people under the age of twenty, who had failed to keep even the common law of the land. Most of these young people had broken the law in their blundering efforts to find adventure and response to the old impulse for self-expression. It is said indeed that practically the whole machinery of the grand jury and of the criminal courts is maintained and operated for the benefit of youths between the ages of thirteen and twenty-five. . . .

"Possibly these fifteen thousand youths were brought to grief because the adult population assumed that the young would be able to grasp only that which is presented in the form of sensation; as if they believed that youth could thus early become absorbed in a hand to mouth existence, and so entangled in materialism that there would be no reaction against it. It is as though we were deaf to the appeal of these young creatures, claiming their share of the joy of life flinging out into the dingy city their desires and aspirations after unknown realities, their unutterable longings for companionship and pleasure. Their very demand for excitement is a protest against the dulness of life, to which we ourselves instinctively respond."

If the city is responsible for the perplexities and dangers of boyhood, it is not less so for those of girlhood; for the old-time modesty which distinguished girls in general is a thing of the past, and sports and vices are now scarcely determined by sex. City conveniences—the laundry, the bakery, the dressmaker's establishment—often combine to force the city girl, at least the daughter of well-to-do parents, into a life of idleness, incompetency and finicality. And the daughters of the poor, the girls who have to go into the store, the factory or the restaurant, are confronted in the matter of recreation, by dangers even greater than those which face their sisters because of *ennui*. Says the author just quoted: "Never before in civilization have such numbers of young girls been suddenly released from the protection of the home and permitted to walk unattended upon city streets and to work under alien roofs; for the first time they are being prized more for their labor power than for their innocence, their tender beauty, their ephemeral gaiety. Society cares more for the products they manufacture than for their immemorial ability to reaffirm the charm of existence. . . .

"In every city arise so-called 'palaces'—'gin palaces' they are called in fiction; in Chicago we euphemistically say merely 'places,'—in which alcohol is dispensed, not to allay thirst, but, ostensibly to stimulate gaiety; it is sold in order to empty pockets. Huge dance halls are opened to which hundreds of young people are attracted, many of

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whom stand wistfully outside a roped circle, for it requires five cents to procure within it for five minutes the sense of allurements and intoxication which is sold in lieu of innocent pleasure. These coarse and illicit merrymakings remind one of the unrestrained jollities of Restoration London, and they are indeed their direct descendants, properly commercialized, still confusing joy with lust, and gaiety with debauchery. Since the soldiers of Cromwell shut up the people's playhouses and destroyed their pleasure fields, the Anglo-Saxon city has turned over the provision for public recreation to the most evil-minded and the most unscrupulous members of the community. We see thousands of girls walking up and down the streets on a pleasant evening with no chance to catch a sight of pleasure even through a lighted window, save as these lurid places provide it. Apparently the modern city sees in these girls only two possibilities, both of them commercial; first, a chance to utilize by day their new and tender labor in its factories and shops, and then another chance in the evening to extract from them their petty wages by pandering to their love of pleasure."

Of the demoralizing influence of the modern dance, or rather the acrobatics and contortions that go by that name, there is scarcely a paper or a pulpit that does not give warning. In a sermon on the situation in New York, the Rev. Charles A. Eaton said: "This dancing craze is nothing but another form of hysteria. It is not difficult to

remember back to the time when everyone was bridge crazy. These things follow one after the other. I do not wish to appear as alarmist, nor do I wish to appear so narrow minded as not to recognize the need and the right of the people of our times to have amusements and recreations, but I do believe that the hysterical pursuit of pleasure through which we are now passing has not been equaled in this world since the days of ancient Rome, when the people paraded the streets and begged only for bread and play. What was the result in ancient Rome may be the result in modern New York."

The present European war was even foreshadowed by the universal craze for dancing, according to a Norwegian writer, who says, in part: "When a certain period of culture nears its termination for lack of new ideas, then humanity in its search for a fresh path to follow will undergo certain psychological symptoms, which a careful observer will recognize as precursors of a new cultured epoch. These symptoms are of a more or less epidemical character and spread over smaller or larger parts of the world.

"To dance is nothing abnormal in itself is the conclusion drawn, but when all the world is as in a frenzy, when there is dancing on all the stages, in every society, and serious business men at their old age start to learn new steps, there must be something wrong, there must be some mental defect in humanity which forms a grave symptom of

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an impending social decline."

On the outskirts of a village in northern Michigan in which it has been my good fortune to spend a few weeks each year, for a decade past, there dwells a happy family. The father and mother are of the common people. The children—two boys and two girls—range from a modest, winsome little girl of eight to a manly boy of fifteen. Opposite the humble home of this family is a large green pasture, dappled with dandelions, where roam the cows of the villagers; and beyond the pasture is a little swamp, dark with the foliage of ash and cedar, mysterious with strange shrubs, small animal life and croakings and bubbles—just the kind of a place a child's imagination loves to convert into an African jungle. In the distance, to the right, rise high hills that are covered with forest trees and blackberry bushes; while along their base flows a swift and sparkling trout stream.

What a contrast is childhood in that little Michigan town with childhood here in Boston—or in any other big city! On nearly every avenue in many sections of this motley city saloons, whose business is always rushing, spew out their human wrecks, to reel, tattered and blear-eyed, among these same little children. It is no exaggeration to say that in some populous quarters of the city drunkards, loafers and brawlers are practically the only grown people these children of the street come in contact with during the day. What will the harvest be? How will these children turn out?

That disorder, violence and crime, especially homicide, are on a rapid increase in all our large cities, well informed persons are aware. Said Police Commissioner Woods in an address before the Harvard Union but recently: "The strange thing recently is that the greatest amount of crime has been committed by small boys, the second generation of foreigners. We are trying to study what makes these boys go wrong. It seems to be that the young immigrants outgrow their parents, learn with rapidity new speech and customs, laugh at their fathers' long beards, and the strange customs of their homes, and plunge right in for what they consider the essence of American life—to get money."

A New York paper in a recent discussion of a new and alarming form of lawlessness said: "Gang warfare in New York has now regularly assumed the aspect of pitched battles fought out in the streets with bomb and revolver and with casualties as heavy as in many a Mexican or Cuban engagement. The evolution of the gang system has proceeded rapidly. There may be people to whom the name still connotes a fortuitous gathering of idle youth whose main occupation of hanging about the corner saloons was varied by incursions into high-spirited rowdyism. But that stage has been long outgrown. Even as the gang weapon has changed from the convenient cobble-stone and beer-bottle to fire-arms and dynamite, the activities of the gang have become professionalized. To

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be sure, the political functions of the gang have been seriously abated. The 'gorilla' as a factor in doubtful districts on election day is a vanishing type. But in place of this intermittent occupation, with its correspondingly low opportunities of profit, there has been developed an entire class of gang activities in the economic field to which it is high time that the authorities gave their complete attention.

"The gangs of today are profitably engaged in the white-slave traffic and in many varieties of blackmail, in addition to the ancient and honorable occupations of burglary and highway robbery. The profits of the trade are important enough for rival gangs to engage in armed warfare for control of the business, and for the ambitious to fight for leadership within the gang. The methods vary with the locality. On the East Side, for example, the blackmailing of tradesmen flourishes to an extraordinary extent. Horse-poisoning is a favorite occupation, and heavy amounts are annually extorted from business men and livery men for immunity. The sinister feature is that the victims are fast coming to accept the situation as inevitable."

Whence come the members of these marauding gangs which, together with an ever-increasing number of lawless "strike-sympathizers," openly challenge the constituted authorities, as they did last year in Boston, and threaten the destruction of society itself? What was the childhood environ-

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ment of these hoodlums and anarchists? It was not of the country or the village, but of the city streets.

CHAPTER V

PUBLIC MANNERS

IT is related that once upon a time a man dropped into a certain newspaper office in Cleveland and informed the editor of his purpose to write two volumes—one on the Customs, and the other on the Manners, of Cleveland. A year or so thereafter, the story goes, this ambitious writer again made his appearance in the editor's sanctum with the first volume of his work. "There," he proudly said, "is the book." "But," exclaimed the editor, "where is the other volume you were to write, the one on the manners of Clevelanders?" "Well," ruefully replied the author, "I found there was a lack of material."

While it is not true that "all cities are alike," that all are equally delinquent in respect to their manners, it is emphatically true that in none of them does politeness in public even approach the requirements of a twentieth century civilization. When contrasted with our achievements in art, in science and in mechanics, embodied in the handiwork of the day and to be seen all about us in perfection and splendor, our manners verge on the barbarous.

It was Henry George who said many years ago

that although our material advancement had made possible the Brooklyn Bridge, our political progress had not enabled us to prevent dishonesty in its construction. May we not likewise say that, although we have in most cities fine street cars, our manners in them are often execrable; that, while we take a just pride in our modern thoroughfares, our behavior on them is almost universally rude,—from the lack of courtesy toward others on the walk to the running down of our fellows by automobiles in the roadway? And in the theatre we have produced stage effects that are marvelous in their beauty and realism; while the orchestra music leaves nothing to be desired,—unless by the poor snare drummer, whose ever increasing stunts he might well wish were done by machinery,—but theatre manners are bad.

All through our history, the persistent criticism of American manners by foreign visitors and Europeanized Americans has naturally led to frequent comparisons of our social usages with those of other countries. For a long time we suffered by the comparison. American travelers abroad, mingling, for the most part, only with the well bred people of the higher circles, would contrast the civilities practiced in those circles with the unpolished habits of the common people at home. - Then, European travelers of the privileged classes, humiliated at not finding any lackeys over here, gave us an unfavorable reputation. Many examples of this kind of criticism are to be found in

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Mr. John Graham Brooks' entertaining volume, "As Others See us." Again, the respectful deportment of the early immigrants to our shores, especially during the first months of their stay, made a favorable impression upon us. We no longer get such people, the Anglo Saxons, in any considerable number. Instead, we are being deluged with unassimilable semi-Asiatics from the despotic countries of southern Europe. May we check this immigration before it is too late!

Within recent years there has been a change of opinion in the matter of comparative manners. Any candid and observing American that has traveled through Europe within the last ten years will wonder at criticism from that quarter. Such a person will likely agree with Brander Matthews in saying: "The more familiar and impartial the observer may be with the social usages and habits of Great Britain and the continent of Europe, the less emphatic will be his feeling that the foreign standard is really superior to the American."

For any practical purpose, however, the superiority or the inferiority of foreign manners should count for little with the patriotic American citizen. It is neither a clumsy nor a spread-eagle use that is here made of the word patriotic; the term is used advisedly. For a patriot is not one who merely flaunts the flag and who rises in the church or the theatre when The Star Spangled Banner is sung, glorious as is the flag and inspiring as is the song. A patriot is simply one who loves and serves his

country, that is, his fellow citizens who compose his country. Nor, as the world of to-day is beginning to realize, is it only in war that a patriot can serve his country. In fact, the statesman who averts a war, where principle is not sacrificed, is a truer patriot than the general who wins victories on the field of battle.

But to return to the thought, the comparative politeness of nations is not of particular moment. Nor is it of importance whether the manners of the city or those of the country are the better. There is little basis for comparison, since the element of numbers largely determines the proper conduct of the individual. He who has plenty of elbow-room may act accordingly. The rights of the man who occupies a bed alone are very different from those of the fellow who is unfortunate enough to be one of the proverbial "three in a bed." In the country a man is a law unto himself. He can take the middle of the road; and he can indulge to his heart's content in whistling or singing along the way. He can eat garlic or onions without offending, for he is not going from his dinner table into a crowded theatre. Thus, rural rules of etiquette do not and need not coincide with urban rules.

And yet how small a percentage of the people of the city habitually act in public as though they knew they were among hundreds or thousands of their fellow beings, each one of whom has manifold rights! Do we not daily encounter the cou-

ple, and often the trio, of dolts who, oblivious of their surroundings and of the convenience of passers-by, stand and carry on a conversation in our pathway as we would step from the street-crossing to a crowded sidewalk? And these obstructers are not in the main, country people, innocently indulging in country customs, nor are they always the uneducated, paradoxical as the term dolt as applied to them here may seem; on the contrary they comprise all classes of citizens. One would suppose that after suffering, themselves, from this sort of nuisance day after day for perhaps half a lifetime, these people that block the way would learn something. It should be the duty of policemen who stand at street crossings to abate this nuisance as much as possible, though seldom, if ever, do we see an officer clear the sidewalk at the approach to a crossing. Until the police do take action in this matter, perhaps as effective a means as any of teaching manners is to bump the obstructers out of the way in Everett True fashion, instead of meekly walking out into the gutter to get by them. Possibly they might then learn that sidewalks are meant primarily to walk on and not to stand on.

A more common breach of good manners is the utter disregard of the law that pedestrians must keep to their right. Possibly there can be no hard and fast rule about this while walking through the crowded shopping districts; for experience has shown that it is not always expedient or even possible in such situations to keep to the right, since

streams of people are nearly always entering or leaving the stores along the way. But on the street crossings it is imperatively demanded that we keep to the right. To do otherwise, to compel our fellows to dodge this way and that, is not only disconcerting but frequently leads to accidents in these days of swift-moving cars and automobiles. On a crowded street crossing there should be the discipline of the army, not the disorder of the mob.

The deadly work of the automobile in our city streets is at last forcing officials to enact and enforce more stringent laws for the protection of pedestrians. A statement recently addressed to the Governor of New York by the Secretary of State says that in eleven months of the year 1913 there were 967 persons killed and 6,107 persons seriously injured by automobiles in the State of New York! Just now a "Safety First" campaign is being waged in the city newspapers. But for one suggestion looking to the curbing of the automobile, there are a dozen admonishing the citizen to look out for it. Had the automobile been the necessity of the poor instead of the pleasure of the rich, it would have been driven from crowded streets long ago. Observe the course that was taken with the bicycle, the convenience of the poor, for example. Even in the days when reforms moved slowly, the bicycle was made to get off the sidewalk and take to the street. This was a very proper ruling, to be sure; but if the bicycle should be forbidden the sidewalk, how much more ought

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the ponderous, death-dealing automobile be barred from the crowded city streets!

Sometime, possibly, the people of the city, grown tired of the Court's slap on the wrist administered to "speed-maniacs," will rise up and demand this very thing, namely, that the automobile, the modern car of Juggernaut, be banished from the down-town streets. It had no right there in the first place; and that it should longer be allowed in our crowded shopping districts, a menace to life, is a reproach on municipal government. In the meantime, one of several conspicuous placards by which the city fathers might inculcate good manners, and, in this instance, wise precaution, should read: "Keep to your Right." The bill for these signs might be met by stiff fines imposed on the heathen who spit on the walk.

Of all public places, the church is preeminently the one where good manners should be looked for. The people who congregate in religious edifices are presumably people who really love one another, and who, therefore, would do nothing that could interfere with the enjoyment of the service by their fellow worshippers. But all is not smooth even here. From the nuisance of much whispering, through the gamut of falling hymn-books, the crackling of programs and other papers, to women's hats that hide the preacher from view, a great deal of offense is given. We often hear the question raised why men do not attend church; occasionally the discussion takes the form of a long-

winded symposium. Passing by doctrinal considerations, which have no place here, it might be ventured that if the church would pattern after the theatre in having sloping aisles and in requiring women to remove their large hats, more men would attend the services. The time has passed, if it ever existed, when men care to turn a religious service into a penance. Suppose some public spirited city newspaper address a request to the clergymen of its city to require women to sit with their hats off in church. Perhaps, for obvious reasons, an exception might be made on Easter Sunday.

It is in the theatre, undoubtedly, that the most common and the most exasperating, if not the most serious, violation of good manners is to be found. The theatre is open every day—we are just beginning to wonder why the church is not. For one person who attends church ten go to the theatre. Whether or not this is a healthy social sign, the fact itself will not be disputed. People go to the theatre for relaxation and entertainment. Furthermore, they pay for these benefits, many of them a no inconsiderable part of their income. Is it not important, then, that they should be permitted to enjoy the program undisturbed? It is not only important but in all moderation it may be said to be imperative.

But what do we find the situation to be in nearly every theatre today? Needless annoyance of many kinds. The following excerpt from an arti-

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cle by Betty Bradeen is a mild criticism of some of these annoyances: "There is considerable complaint from theatre lovers against those who talk during a performance—they say with justice that intermissions are sufficiently frequent to permit all necessary conversation. Silence should be the rule at such places for the sake of those who go for enjoyment of the play and for no other reason—and the number of men and women belonging to the first class is sufficient to attract attention at least if they choose to assert their right. . . . I have often wondered why people spend their money where they are sure to find rudeness. I wonder why more do not take the straightforward course of complaint against those who care nothing for the complaint of others. I sat in front of a woman at the theatre who never came on time and never ceased talking for the entire evening, and sat there one night each week for a whole year. I did not want to incur her enmity. Finally, I managed to have my seat changed and her neighbors made it so uncomfortable for her that she was glad to keep quiet. It was a man who brought her to her senses, a man with a clear idea of his own rights and no fear of consequences."

A similar testimony was given by a theatre-goer not long since. "I was scarcely seated," he says, "when two fellows took seats in the row behind me and at once began to keep time to the music with their feet. Of course, the rattle of their feet on the floor was very soothing to my nerves and

helped me to appreciate the music. When they finally got tired keeping time, they lay back in their seats, one of them bracing his knees against the back of my seat, and shifting about just often enough to make me feel joyous. Then when the curtain rose they related to each other, as if all alone in the house, their impressions of the performers and of the play."

Now, this patron's rights were clearly violated, just as yours are, reader, in every theatre. But there is more to this, for this particular man did not do as most of us would have done, that is "let it go," for he had some spirit along with a sense of his rights; so, at last, when he realized that he was likely to be robbed of his entertainment, he turned and addressed his tormentors thus: "See here, I paid fifty cents to enjoy this show. Now you put your feet on the floor, keep them still and stop talking or I will have you put out." "Well," he continues, "they flushed up, but after a minute or two, resumed their antics, at the same time making sarcastic remarks about finical people. I said nothing further to them, but got up and went back to one of the ushers and told him what was going on. Now this usher was a young man after my own heart; for, upon my pointing out the two offenders, he gave them to understand that a continuation of the annoyance would insure them a swift if not graceful exit from the house. They were as quiet as proverbial church mice during the remainder of the performance."

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Here the offenders were men. But observation will show that women are quite as unmindful of the rights of those around them. If they are not as noisy with their feet they make up for it with their tongues. Indeed, it seems as if the chief object of some women in going to the theatre is to visit. Possibly their telephones are out of order.

In this discussion of manners, let us not be misunderstood. The curtailment of no one's liberty is here advocated, for it is no one's liberty to interfere with any one else's rights. It would be well could the ancient idea of the term civility be revived; for it implied "a state of society in which the relations and duties of a citizen are recognized and obeyed." This question of liberty and rights is sometimes sadly confused. We have all heard, but are often unmindful, of the experience of the Irishman who, upon landing in America, stretched out his arms in appreciation of his liberty. One of his hands accidentally came in contact with another man's nose. Pat's explanation that he thought this was a free country did not avail, for his victim replied: "This is a free country, but your freedom ends where my nose begins."

Speaking again of the theatre, it may be said that the three great reforms in this generation have been the substitution of fellow players in the preceding act for the audience as targets for ridicule; the adoption, only after a terrible lesson, of the asbestos curtain, together with the ample provision for exit in case of fire; and the order for the re-

moval of women's hats during the performance.

It is doubtful which of these three reforms is the most appreciated by the public. Though the first-mentioned is a recent innovation, let us hope that it is a permanent acquisition, not a passing fad. It is such a boon that we scarcely know whether to thank the theatrical manager for it, or to condemn him for not bringing it about long ago. No more outrageous breach of good manners could be perpetrated on a patron who had paid his money ostensibly for entertainment (only to cite one form of offense) than the old custom of making the man whom nature had deprived of hair the butt of coarse stage jokes.

Of the second reform it may be said that it was imperatively demanded. All places of public assembly should insure safety. But what was the use of going to the theatre if one could not see the stage? When we think of what our theatre-going fathers put up with out of a false sense of politeness to women, we cannot but believe that right then they atoned for many of their shortcomings. We feel thankful for a dispensation by virtue of which we may sit in a theatre of hatless heads.

Still, if our fathers could not see what was taking place on the stage they could at least listen to real singing; while we have had to endure the bellying tremolo,—and just because some silly girl discovered she could sing while shaking in a chill —(this account of the origin of the tremolo will

do as well as any other.) Oh, how we have yearned for the sweet notes of the olden days! What enthusiastic applause we have all given the occasional singer who, having an appreciation of the melody in the human voice, actually sang! And now when the corrugated tremolo is going out of fashion, or is subsiding into a faint trill, the recitative song is coming in. Well may we exclaim: "Are we never to hear vocal *music*! May some bold manager rise up and administer a quietus to this new abomination—even as a discriminating publisher did some time ago to the dialect story. The modern spoken song, with its awkward transition from talking to singing, is a species of vocal slops, and is, it is safe to say, a bore to every music lover who is compelled to listen to it. Novelty is not always improvement.

But let us be just. Have not the folk on the stage a good cause to complain of a cold-blooded audience, an audience that sits unmoved through a worthy performance? That there are such audiences theatrical people agree. Mr. William H. Crane, than whom no one is better qualified to judge, has made some interesting comparisons of different audiences. He says "Clevelanders smile where Cincinnatians chuckle, Chicagoans hee-haw and Milwaukeeans roar." It would be of interest to learn his opinion of a Boston audience whose repeated encores often materially lengthen the performance. It is Mr. Crane's opinion, too, that a cold audience cheats itself, since "players who are

not encouraged by laughs or hands lose interest themselves and play perfunctorily."

Not only is unnecessary annoyance caused by the ill manners of individuals, but it often results from thoughtlessness in the construction or arrangement of public buildings. When we consider the attention that is given to details in our manufacturing and business concerns that all may run smoothly, it is astonishing to note the entire lack of such attention when profits are not at stake, when just every-day human welfare is concerned. It was ten years before the owners of an arcade building in a certain city had sense enough to put the words "In" and "Out" on the doors through which people passed all day. Of course, had everyone that went in and out been thoughtful enough to keep to the right, no trouble would have resulted; but as it was, people were constantly running into one another in the doorways.

A short time ago a citizen who had been trying to write a postcard on a shelf designed for such purpose in a city post-office, but who had been bothered by one of those dunces who think the only way to put a stamp on an envelope is to pound it on with the fist, stepped into the postmaster's private office and stated his grievance, politely adding a suggestion that a placard be posted on the wall above the shelf forbidding pounding on stamps. But that august official, with the true instincts of a politician, answered that the people had rights and that he was not the man to take them

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away. It was in vain that the citizen insisted that he himself was one of the people and had a right to use the shelf for the purpose for which it was intended, undisturbed by pile drivers who were using it for a purpose for which it was not intended. He also pointed out that such a placard would save many pens and holders which the pounding caused to roll on to the floor. But the postmaster was not concerned about that. The loss did not come out of his pocket. It is to be feared there are too many such patriots in the public service of our country, some of them higher up than postmaster.

Manifestly, any consideration herein of the conventionalities of etiquette would be out of place. Doubtless it is desirable for all of us to know and to practice the usages of polite society;—to say "thank you" instead of "thanks;" to say "beg pardon," instead of "what?" in reply to a remark we did not catch; to abstain from pointing at objects along the street; to hold our forks in the correct position, and eat "wet dishes" with a spoon. For these, and countless other regulations that insure "good form," there are reasons. But a nonconformity with any of these observances, while it may offend the fastidious, cannot be considered an infringement of anyone's rights. Indeed, the person who would call the transgressor's attention to a lapse from one of these forms of decorum would himself commit the greater offense.

No, it is not the politeness demanded by the hyp-

ercritic that is called for to ameliorate the harsh conditions imposed by the vast numbers that congregate or that cross one another's path in the city. It is just an applied respect for the rights of our fellow men; that is all.

It has been the part of a good-natured philosophy to condone the ill-manners of Americans, just as it has been a part of that same philosophy to excuse every other shortcoming that is American. One writer of prominence, voicing the spirit of this philosophy, says: "In America, bad manners are caused by want of thought; they are the result of carelessness rather than wilfulness. The American is so busy minding his own business that he has no time to be as regardful of the rights of others as he ought to be."

With the truth of this statement, few will find fault. Though partly an apology and partly a justification, it aptly characterizes the conduct of the American as it has always been. But is not the time come to cast aside, or greatly modify this old pattern, to cease being "so busy minding our own business that we have no time to be regardful of the rights of others?" There are more than ten times as many people in this country today as there were a century ago. In our great cities a man comes in contact with a hundred of his fellow beings where his forefathers met but one of theirs. Furthermore, these hurrying hundreds that he jostles in the street and in other public places are, for the most part, strangers who cannot be expected

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to overlook a rudeness as would the friends or acquaintances of the olden time. "In America bad manners are caused by want of thought,"—but this excuse will not restore an eye that has been poked out by an umbrella carelessly handled. Want of thought where the rights of others are concerned is a kind of selfishness which it behooves us all to be on our guard against. Strictly speaking, even where one is not called upon, in the cause of good manners, to do things in the service of his fellow man, how gracious an act it is to do them! "A man stoops to pick a banana peeling from the sidewalk and throw it in the gutter, and his companion comments: 'You are not paid to do that.' Nor is he, neither is he paid for carefully depositing rubbish of his own in the box provided for that purpose. Nor does the traveler who turns off the light when he leaves his hotel room find his bill reduced." Nevertheless, such a regard for the welfare of others is real patriotism. There is no gold lace about it, no fife and drum, by the magic music of which even the poltroon is often galvanized into a hero. But in these days the habitual regard for the rights, even the minor rights, of our fellow citizens is the kind of patriotism that is most needed.

We have all become familiar, through widely published statistics, with the fact that insanity and nervous breakdown are rapidly increasing in our country, especially in our large cities. "We live too fast," the medical men tell us. Doubtless the

strain of ever increasing competition in business, on the one hand, and the dissipations in which relief from it is sought, on the other, are the primary causes of this degeneracy. But everything that discommodes, that irritates and vexes, occasions friction and increases the wear and tear of body and mind; and tells, in the long run, on the health. Our city authorities, in recognition of this fact, are now following the lead of the old world cities in taking action to suppress needless noises, such as screeching car-wheels, raucous automobile horns, excessive blowing of locomotive whistles, and cries of street vendors. Even the church bell, the subject of many a lyric in the olden time, is challenged of its right to ring. All of these prohibitions are proposed in the cause of public health. Can it not likewise be urged, in the light of the discussion in this chapter, that the ill manners of the many whom the city dweller meets day after day have a hurtful effect on his health? Unfortunately, it is not possible in most cases to prohibit rudeness by law. But the man or the woman who, in a public place, respects the rights of others is, to that extent, a conservator of human health.

CHAPTER VI

PUBLICITY: GOOD AND BAD

DURING the last decade of our history there has been both an insistent demand for, and a persistent practice of publicity. But there are many kinds of publicity, and the kind that has been demanded has been furnished grudgingly, while the sort volunteered has been supplied ad nauseam.

Of the publicity demanded—by the press, by magazine writers and by politicians seeking favor with the voters,—it may be said that it has chiefly concerned private and quasi-public corporations. These corporations are, of course, conducted primarily for profits. When we read in Adam Smith's "Wealth of Nations" the doubt expressed as to the success of the corporate, as compared with the individual and partnership form of enterprise, we smile, just as we smile when we think of that early nineteenth century scientist's assertion that it would not be possible for a steamship to cross the Atlantic, as the weight of the coal necessary to furnish steam would sink it; or again as we do, when we read the conclusion of one of our early statesmen that the "Great American Desert" would never be fit for cultivation. Any doubt as

to the prowess of the corporation vanished long ago. The last forty years have witnessed an invasion of the institution into every branch of business, from railroading down to shoe polishing, and today, corporate enterprise in everything except agriculture, is the rule, private and partnership undertakings being the exception. It is estimated that more than fifty per cent. of the wealth of the country (placed by the World Almanac for 1914 at \$130,000,000,000) is owned by corporations. Eliminating agricultural property, the estimate of the wealth so owned is over eighty per cent.

Thus far, however, it has not been the large profits of the corporation that have prompted the demand for publicity concerning its operations; or, perhaps, it would be more correct to say that this consideration has not generally been the cause of the demand. An exception exists in the case of public-service corporations, especially where there has been a marked sentiment in favor of municipal ownership. There the demand for a statement of profits, with a view to securing lower rates, has been quite insistent. But the corrupting of the law-making bodies, municipal, state and national, by corporations, resulting on the one hand in a violation of the sanctions of government and on the other in giving such corporations great advantages over the individual, was the first occasion for the light of publicity upon them. The creation of values by watering stocks and the over-in-

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stocks, next received attention. Then the searchlight was directed upon the discrimination in freight rates by railroads, the issue of passes and the bestowal of other benefits upon the favored few.

As a consequence of the disclosures resulting from this kind of publicity, stringent legislation has within recent years been enacted in nearly all the states affecting the chartering and operations of corporations. The Secretaries of State, the Railroad, Insurance and Public Service Commissioners, have been given wide inquisitorial powers concerning them; and detailed reports of their status must now be made by them. In fact, so drastic are the laws and supervision in some of the states as virtually to place a corporation in a strait-jacket. One can appreciate the feelings of that Mississippi banker who notified the depositors to come and get their money, as the bank was going out of business for fear the legislature then in session would make it a criminal offense to do a banking business. But while the bright light of publicity may cause the officers of corporations to blink, the people at large can look on with satisfaction, feeling that by the aid of that light they may see what is wrong and learn how to right it.

A few words now concerning a form of publicity that is as new as is scientific advertising. It is, in fact, a species of advertising. I refer to the politician's exploitation of the public's attention, allusion to which propensity was made in the earlier

pages of this book. This art of self-advertising has given rise to a remark which may be said to have already acquired the force of an axiom: "Toot your own horn or it will remain untooted." And what an ever increasing blare and din of horns there has been throughout the land during the last fourteen years, or since the new century began! The old fashioned statesman, so quiet and dignified, with his charming sense of modesty, has disappeared, together with the high hat and long-tailed coat he wore. A new set of men have come to the front. They wear derby hats and business suits, and in their quest of office they pursue business methods. Prosaic in appearance, they are nevertheless born actors, and actors of the melodramatic type. How boldly they rush on to the ice—after it has been found to be safe! How they "thunder in the index" of "glittering generalities," their vague cries for "humanity" and "human rights" alternating with self-glorification over what they have done or will do for the dear people! In every campaign, and between campaigns, the office seeker "toots his own horn," in speeches, in arranged interviews, and, (if he is big enough), in editorials of papers owned or controlled by himself. Personal publicity bureaus and carloads of boosting reporters! Whoever heard of these things in the days of Grant and Tilden and Sherman and Thurman?

But advertising pays, and so, at least until the general public becomes more discerning, and can

tell shoddy from wool, the advertising politician will be with us. In any city, the politician who keeps his name in the papers is the successful one. People think they know him because of his ubiquitous name, whereas, they do not really know him at all. The masses—and they cast the great majority of the votes—do not draw the line very closely between fame and notoriety. They are too absorbed in getting a living to inquire into the office-seeker's character and qualifications, and so they readily take a candidate's own estimate of himself. They go further and become enthusiastic over this self-advertised product; and in the case of an advertising executive, especially whether mayor, governor or president, they will go any length with him in his efforts (very common just now), to be "the whole thing." But this opens the question of executive encroachment, vital enough for a volume, but foreign to our present purpose.

A former president of the United States, a gentleman and statesman of the old school, at least so far as modesty and ability go, laments, in a magazine article, his lack of advertising qualifications, which lack he modestly ascribes to his judicial training, instead of to his high sense of propriety. But whatever the reason for the lack, thinking people with long memories are thankful for it.

A distinction should be made between the preaching and the boasting politician. The form-

er may be of some service to his country, while the latter is a bore at best. There is little danger from an excess of political preaching, provided it does not teach anarchy. For in this sordid world political ideals—ideals of economic and social justice—are a proper accompaniment of the spiritual ideals proclaimed from the pulpit. The more we have of it the better it will be for us.

Of all the agencies of publicity, the press is, of course, the most far-reaching and prolific. It is difficult, indeed, for the modern mind to conceive of any considerable degree of publicity, or even of civilization, without it. And yet but three or four generations ago the press cut a comparatively small figure in the dissemination of news; for in the opening days of the republic, when we were a rural people, newspapers were few. In fact, there were at that time only three or four daily papers and but two score weekly, semi-weekly and monthly publications in the entire country. The happenings of most communities were made known by the village gossip, and the news of distant places was carried by the stage driver or the sea-captain.

To the citizen of today whose "breakfast is not complete" without the morning paper with its luminous account of a world's daily doings, the newspaper of his forefathers would be a curiosity. He would look in vain through its four small pages for matter such as now greets his eye in any daily paper. No startling headlines would ap-

prize him of a fresh intrigue in Europe or of a horrible crime committed the day before in some distant city in his own country; for such news would be from three days to three months old before it became known to him. And what items the paper might contain would appear in an almost unintelligible form, no pains being taken to present it in an orderly manner. In the place of news by telegraphic dispatch, would be found letters from friends who were visiting in some other town, or roughing it in what was then the far West. Instead of crisp editorial squibs would be found prolix moralizing on the evils of gossip, theatre going, card playing, and intemperance. In the field of politics the tone of the press of that early period was as coarse and abusive as the press of a century later was cynical and time-serving.

Within the last twenty years the press has become more independent in politics than ever before, many of the most influential papers having no affiliation whatever with any party. And yet, however much such non-partisan papers are to be commended for their independence in politics, it is almost precisely this element of the press that is the worst offender in what constitutes the chief faults of the press today. The staid party organs, for the most part, have a dignity and self-respect that forbids sensationalism. The independent papers, on the other hand, are neither owned nor controlled by men interested in party success, but by men who are primarily after profits; and a

large circulation being essential to large profits, they cater to the curiosity and imagination, to put it mildly, of the masses to insure that circulation.

Now what are the chief faults of the press to-day? The first and foremost is undoubtedly the ruthless invasion of private rights and the sanctity of family relations. In the village no one is so contemptible and so detested as the scandal-mongering gossip. Now what such a pest is to the village community, many a newspaper is to the city—it is a pity that condemnation is not likewise general. No sooner is a divorce suit filed, especially where prominent people are parties to it, than these jackals send reporters to the house of trouble and there the insinuating threat is often conveyed that unless the facts are given to this emissary they will be obtained anyhow. Once obtained, they, the secret, if not sacred, things of the family life which in no way concern, nor should interest, the public, are published broadcast. Often a twist is given to the "facts" that changes the whole aspect of the case, and serves to embitter or humiliate those concerned. This impertinent prying into private affairs is carried into many other personal matters as well; and it is not alone the one who is in trouble that is subject to unpleasant notoriety, but if he be prominently connected, his relatives must be brought in also. The only circumstance in mitigation of the harm done by such publicity is that in the city one's circle of acquaintances is narrow. Not so many people

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in a village stare at him because of the newspaper's zeal in publishing "news."

Of this fault of the press, the veteran editor, Col. Henry Watterson, in an address before newspaper men some time ago, used the following vigorous language: "Pretending to be the especial defenders of liberty, we are becoming the invaders of private right. No household seems any longer safe against intrusion. Our reporters are being turned into detectives. As surely as this be not checked we shall grow to be objects of fear and hatred, instead of trust and respect. Some one," he goes on to say, "ought to organize an intelligent and definite movement toward the bettering of what has reached alarming proportions. I say this in your interest as well as the interest of the public and the profession, for I am sure that you are gentlemen and want to be considered so, whereas the work you are often set to do is the reverse of gentlemanly. It subjects you to aversion and contempt—brings you and a high and mighty calling into disrepute by confusing the purpose and function of the newspaper with those of the police and the scavenger." These are strong words; had they been uttered by a layman, doubtless they would have been treated by the press in a jocosé spirit. Smart editors would have had much sport with the man who was so ignorant of the proper functions of journalism.

If the invasion of private right ranks first among the faults of the press, misrepresentation

closely follows. We are all familiar with the saying, "You can't believe what you see in the papers," a dictum which is too sweeping, perhaps, but which has much evidence to justify it. Who has not often read a "write-up" of some person or of some occurrence that he knew to be almost pure fiction? Newspaper men are, of course, only human and so are liable to make mistakes in spite of the best intentions. Where no person or cause is injured by the publication of an incorrect report, little harm is done. But is sufficient care and conscience exercised in cases where a person, or a cause may be injured by such perversion of truth? It cannot be said that there is. The effort to be sensational and thus increase the circulation of the paper seems almost to preclude this.

Of "yellow journalism" Major J. C. Hemphill, another veteran editor of the chivalrous Southland, in an address at Yale College, spoke as follows:

"The press in these abundant times, speaking generally, is in the business for the money there is in it. The most potent force in shaping and directing the thought and sentiment of the country, it is yet a beggar at the door of patronage. Little or no independence is actually possessed by the journalists who preach independence. It must be said, however, to the credit or discredit, as you please, of the public, that it reflects largely the character of the newspapers by which it is served.

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"The yellow streak runs not less through the press than through the people. The shame of the press is that it has catered to the worst tendencies of a corrupt and malodorous age. Its mission ought to be the elevation of the public; instead it advertises its degradation; fairly shrieking against any restriction upon its liberty, it converts liberty into license.

"Broadly speaking, the most sensational and irresponsible newspapers make the most money and there has been noted for years the gradual degradation of the American press to the American level.

"There is no profession so exacting, none requiring so extensive and accurate knowledge of history and philosophy and political economy, none calling for so great patience of opposition, such clearness and firmness of judgment, such courage of conviction, and such careful regard for the rights of others. That is why, in my opinion, the newspaper should be, in fact, the judge and jury and not the swift witness or the paid counselor in the case on trial before the people * * *. That newspaper is unworthy which for personal profit or political gain for itself or its party, misrepresents the position of a professional or political rival; that follows any particular course because it is popular; that joins in the defamation of any man because there is something to be made out of it whether in the way of increased circulation or adventitious importance."

Perhaps if the kind of newspaper here described would practice the Golden Rule instead of the fancied rule of business, it would, in the long run, discover that the Golden Rule is the real rule of business.

A form of publicity that is of service to a city, but which has not received sufficient encouragement, is the People's Column, the Forum, the Editor's Mail, &c., as communications of newspaper readers are variously styled. A generation ago letters from the reader to the editor of a paper were few. And they were expected to indorse the editor's views. Woe to the writer who dared to dissent, especially if his letter was faulty in grammar or diction, for the chances were that he would be so lampooned as to deter him and others of his kind from making any further expressions of opinion. Today communications of readers receive respectful consideration and are generally published as a matter of course. I know of but three or four metropolitan papers where, judging from the monotonous adulation of the contributions, a writer is expected to indorse the paper's views.

It is not, however, of letters in criticism of the paper's views that I would speak, but of those that deal with matters of concern to the citizen, with local abuses and reforms, which the editor and the reporter fail to discuss—for these functionaries, Argus-eyed though they be, cannot see everything of interest that is going on; nor are they omniscient.

I have said that the writing of letters is not sufficiently encouraged. But, in justice to the newspaper, it may be said that the paucity of communications has another explanation, at least in part. Now it is true that we seldom see an urgent invitation to the reader to send in anything—unless on the society page he is invited to try his hand at defining a true lady or a perfect gentleman for the dollar prize, or else, on the fiction page, he is urged, in competition for another dollar prize, to write the concluding chapter of the thrilling drama, "The Eavetroughs of New York,"—everything else in that city having already been dramatized. But is there not something wrong with the public spirit of a city of a million people when in none of its papers are found more than a half dozen letters from the readers? Are there not hundreds, yes thousands, of bright men and women in such a vast city that could offer, in a few lines, suggestions founded on their observation or experience, that would make for the welfare of the city? And is it not their patriotic duty to do so? Many a nuisance might be abated, many a graft exposed, many a reform brought about, if citizens would tell the public through the newspaper what they know of specific cases. A citizen of Boston notices, day after day, that horses fall on a certain steep thoroughfare in that city. He writes to one of the papers about it, suggesting that something be put on that highway that will prevent the horses from falling. A few days af-

terward this is done; and the newspaper frankly gives the citizen the credit for the service. A lady in another city calls attention to the tobacco juice expectorated on the steps of the street car by the motorman, much to the damage of women's skirts; and an investigation is made. A citizen of another city writes in condemnation of the practice of merchants in using excessive quantities of salt to melt the snow on the sidewalk, whereby the shoes of pedestrians are ruined. The girls employed in an office building of still another city tell, in a newspaper communication, what they propose to do to make thoughtless or selfish men move back in the elevator, so the girls can get in without a struggle. I have a friend, quite a traveler, who makes it his business, if he sees a city derelict in any particular, to write the leading newspaper of that city about it. He believes that seed thus sown will strike root.

There is a great field of civic usefulness in these letters from the habitual or occasional reader; and the People's Column should be expanded into a page.

Those ill manners which, as we have seen in the preceding chapter, rob polite people of their rights, might, in a great measure, be corrected by publicity. In the chapter referred to, the barbarous manners in the average theatre were discussed. Some of them are of such long standing as to seem as a heritage from the past, and like the principle of monarchy in old China, everlasting. But the

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world waked up one morning to find China a full-fledged republic; and so it may happen that theatre-goers will soon enter a theatre as suddenly made the place of good manners, where all may enjoy the play undisturbed.

The theatre management should take measures to enforce decorum. Within recent years a few timorous attempts have been made in many play-houses. Babies have been barred from the house and late arrivals forbidden to take their seats during an act. But a much more drastic policy is called for. Those unesthetic advertisements of toilet powders and creams and chewing gum that are to be seen on many a stage curtain should give place to a big-lettered proclamation something like this:

RULES OF THIS THEATRE.

Patrons must not annoy those around them.

They must keep their feet on the floor and keep them still.

They must not indulge in conversation during an act.

No one is allowed to occupy more than one seat, nor use but one arm-rest.

Persons with the fumes of liquor on their breaths or with foul-smelling pipes in their clothes are not allowed in this house.

An infraction of these rules will receive adequate attention on complaint of any patron.

By the publication and enforcement of some

such rules as these, the play would be much more enjoyable, and delinquents taught lessons that they would be likely to carry into other places of public assembly.

Railroad and street-car companies might also adopt this form of publicity, much to the comfort of the traveling public. To the lonely notice not to spit on the floor they might well add several others looking to the welfare of their patrons. For example, the passenger on a railroad train might be warned against occupying more than one seat for any purpose. Such a notice might have some effect on the fellow (we have all met him), who has far more to do with the seat in front of him than he has with his own, throwing his wraps over the back of it, leaning his arms upon it, lolling in the faces of its occupants and poking his knees into the back of it.

Another posted rule, for all kinds of public conveyances, might forbid whistling. Is there any criminal worse than the fellow who, having you at his mercy for perhaps a three hours' ride, persists in whistling, generally in that blood-curdling tremolo,—and always something that nobody, himself included, ever heard before! Why should this nuisance be permitted to choose such a time and place in which to compose his music?

This idea and practice of publicity might profitably be carried into many other situations where the rights of the public are now being invaded.

CHAPTER VII

FELLOWSHIP

URGING fellowship upon the people of a city may seem like indulging in the proverbial "hollow mockery." What with the dwarfing of the individual into insignificance by sheer force of numbers, the iron relation, in factory and store, of master and servant, even if softened by name into employer and employee, the absorbing pursuit of wealth by the former and the painful struggle for a decent living by the latter, all resulting in a sordid, dollar and dime grind, the preaching of fellowship would seem at least a waste of time. Said Bishop Spalding in a sermon some time ago: "Christian apologists from early days have claimed that Christianity has destroyed caste, and phrases like 'the brotherhood of man' are used as if they were all true and meant the same thing. In reality, there never was a time when society was so divided into so many unsympathetic and even antagonistic groups—we have white and black, capitalist and laborer, plutocrat and proletarian, mistress and maid and many others which designate opposed interests." Real fellowship, let us bear in mind, is comradeship, and comradeship is not based upon consid-

erations of service or of success, but upon an unselfish interest in one another.

Much has been written of late upon civics and sociology in their specific relation to the city. Most of the books and articles treating of these subjects are almost exclusively devoted to discussions of street, park and playground systems, sanitation, public service corporations, modern conveniences and the like. These questions have a proper place in any consideration of municipalities, and the improvements demanded in respect to the matters handled are certainly desirable; but a city may be a veritable "spotless town" and provide all possible conveniences besides, and still be an undesirable place to live in, still be but a swept and garnished pen, where greed and selfishness reign. As for city conveniences, they are not unalloyed blessings; for instance, the street car and automobile have caused many a business man to give up walking, much to the impairment of his health.

Where the real life of the people has been written about, it has frequently been misleading by reason of its glowing optimism. Were one to take the word of some of the social settlement literature—much of it written or inspired by paid agents of the various welfare associations—one would almost conclude that every house in the city is visited and every inmate looked after; that there is, in consequence, no need unsatisfied, no grief unassuaged, that, in short, in the language of the poet-philosopher seated in his easy chair "All's right

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with the world." Occasionally, though, we unexpectedly hear discordant notes in the battle for human welfare, as, for instance, when, following the optimistic sermon of the preacher, with its assurance that Christianity is sweeping on to victory, we listen to the heart-rending appeal of the mission worker from the same pulpit, that we bestir ourselves to save a lost world. Verily, much depends upon the point of view.

We all remember the controversy that was waged some years ago over the question whether we are a Christian nation. The newspapers and the religious publications gave considerable space, for a time, to this discussion. It is well that the question was raised and that it should be raised from time to time. The introspection it compels is good for us. We thus take stock of ourselves and ascertain (if we are fair) how our practices accord with our professions. The comparison should be of perennial interest.

Leaving out of consideration the question whether the world is growing worse (Billy Sunday says it is and Ferrero says it is not), what is the situation in our land today with reference to applied Christianity? Nominally there are, according to the World's Almanac, 75,000,000 Christians out of a population of nearly 100,000,000. But how many real Christians are there? How many that not only fully believe the doctrines of Christianity but habitually practice the precepts of Christ? How many live as though they real-

ized that "Faith without works is dead?" Not to apply the extreme test of turning the other cheek, or of giving the cloak also, it may be pertinently asked how many of these 75,000,000 make their neighbors feel that they love them as they love themselves? How many habitually give—not merely to the Salvation Army kettle at Christmas time—to them that ask? How many love their enemies, or do good to those that hate them? Again, how many take no thought of what they shall eat or what they shall wear? Finally, how many make us feel that they are trying to lay up treasure in heaven instead of on earth? Precious few.

Froude said: "Show me a people where trade is dishonest and I will show you a people where religion is a sham." It is well known that in our country during the last ten years the departments of justice in city, state and nation have been busy with cases involving the sale of fictitious mining stocks, the adulteration of foods and the use of short weights and measures. And a Boston paper, anent the soaring prices of food-stuffs in the face of record-breaking crops at home and practically no market abroad, felt called upon recently to urge, among many don'ts, the following:

"Don't be afraid of the shop-keeper. Don't let him weigh the paper, twine, tray or any other container and charge you for it. It is against the law. Don't let the butcher rest his finger on the projecting bone and don't let him press his body

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against the scale. Don't forget to weigh everything at home. Don't send children to the stores if you can help it."

A great railroad system, mindful of the white-slave traffic, so-called, recently caused a placard to be posted in many of its stations warning girls traveling alone against speaking to strangers, or going to an address given to them by a stranger; going to the assistance of a woman who apparently faints on the street; accepting candy, food or a glass of water, or smelling flowers offered to them by a stranger. In the light of these things, of the state of society with respect to honesty and morality that they imply, is it not idle, at least, to call ourselves a Christian nation?

The chief trouble with the Christianity of today is that while one part of its devotees are serving mammon, the other part are so religious, so absorbed with matters of doctrine, and apparently so fearful of contamination, that they do very little practical good in the world, and so are only negatively good themselves. It was the former kind of Christians, it seems to me, that Professor Ely had in mind when, in his straight-from-the-shoulder little book, *Social Aspects of Christianity*, he said:

"Nothing is more difficult, nothing more requires divine grace, than the constant manifestation of love to our fellows in all our daily acts, in our buying, selling, getting gain. People still want to substitute all sorts of beliefs and obser-

vances in place of this, for it implies a totally different purpose from that which animates this world. It is when men attempt to regulate their lives seven days in the week by the Golden Rule that they begin to perceive that they can not serve God and mammon; for the ruling motive of the one service—egotism, selfishness,—is the opposite of the ruling motive of the other—altruism, devotion to others, consecration of heart, soul and intellect to the service of others." And again: "When one visits the leading churches of New York and Boston, when one forms acquaintance-ship with their members, with the very best will, it is simply impossible to believe that they are trying to place the needs of others on a par with their own needs. Self comes first, and there is little apparent effort to obey, in their expenditures of money, the precept that love for others should hold equal place with love for self. The more seriously one reflects upon this, the longer one turns it over in one's mind, the more shocking appears the divergence between profession and practice. The average Christian is of the world, and is governed by its motives in his expenditures. To get on in life, to enjoy the pleasures of wealth, to be spoken well of by those high in the ranks of fashion—all this is the dominating motive."

It seems, likewise, that the same writer had in mind the latter kind of Christians, the theological kind, when in the same book he said: "I believe it a common impression that Christianity is con-

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cerned primarily with a future state of existence." And again: "We go to the Bible with the notion that we are to learn about heaven rather than about earth, and so we make things apply to a future existence which were intended for this world." Finally, to all professing Christians the Professor applies the "acid test" when he puts the searching question: "Did it ever occur to you that a man who claimed to be a Christian, and was not at the same time a philanthropist, was a hypocrite and a liar? Yet, if Christ speaks true, this is undoubted. Select one of the gospels, and read therein the words of Christ, and you will see how Christ comes back again and again to our social duties." Professor Ely might well have presented the correlative side of the case in a proposition something like this, namely: If the 75,000,000 professing Christians of our country were *real* Christians, there would be no involuntary idleness, and there would not be a hungry woman or child in the land. Nay, even more: Such good influences would be thrown around the erring ones as soon in truth to make this a Christian land—if not in faith, at least in works.

No institution is broad enough to compass the kind of fellowship needed in the big city. The church is not adequate; for, even if it were more sincere, more democratic and more zealous in its ministrations than it is today, the age-long question of creed would still block the way. The communicant must subscribe to a creed, or else he is

a hypocrite; and hypocrites are not desirable companions. That a man is moral and kind and charitable does not count in the orthodox church, if he be known to disbelieve the cardinal doctrines of that body, be they ever so absurd, as determined by the same reasoning that every intelligent person applies to other problems. That this is true, is abundantly proved in the not infrequent heresy trials. It is as rare a sight to see a Christian working hand in hand with an unbeliever in a charitable cause as it is to see a Protestant and a Catholic so engaged.

Creeds have undergone changes, it is true, and they will continue to undergo changes, for "the thoughts of men widen with the process of the suns." Judged by beliefs considered by the Pilgrim Fathers essential to salvation, whole congregations of professing Christians of today would be lost. And who doubts the fate of Christians a hundred years hence, if they are to be weighed by the orthodox balances of the present day? What with the industry of the higher critics, the unearthing of illuminating tablets in old Egypt, Babylonia and Assyria, and the rise of non-theological cults, like the New Thought, that satisfy both spiritual and temporal needs, the outlook for stability in theology is not promising. This is not denying the vital value of the principles enunciated in the Decalogue, the Sermon on the Mount, and especially the Golden Rule. Many equally exalted moral precepts are to be found, as scholars well

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know, in the teachings of Krishna, of Zoroaster, of Lao-tsze, of Confucius, of Buddha, and even in the Confession of the soul before the tribunal of Osiris, the god of ancient Egypt. Besides the observance and practice of such principles, insuring right conduct and noble character, all merely theological doctrine is at best but a fifth wheel to the wagon of salvation. I do not underrate the importance of an abiding faith in a kind but just God, whose laws automatically and inexorably reward virtue and punish vice. Fortunate, indeed, is the person who possesses this faith, and lives accordingly, for he is wise. As long, however, as acceptance of any creed is made necessary to church membership, the church cannot extend the hand of fellowship to all men. An honest and independent thinker can have no place in an orthodox church body.

Again, worldly success, either in terms of fame or of fortune, cannot be a bond of helpful fellowship; rather is it the reverse, for it is precisely along this line that there is the greatest cleavage, that there is the most marked separation of classes in society today. The successful are praised, courted, honored and endowed with virtues they never possessed, as to kings in ancient times was accorded the dignity of descent from the gods; the unsuccessful are denied the possession of any exalted traits, contemptuously treated or entirely ignored. And yet to the enlightened, how absurd are these distinctions! How many successful men

are themselves the principal factors in achieving their success? And how many are worthy of it? Not all, surely. The ways of success are mysterious. An analysis of the careers of successful men, where the real facts are known, will show how little many of those men had to do with their own success, or at least how little of work they did to win it. Such an analysis will confirm us in the belief that "some are born great" and "some have greatness thrust upon 'em." Circumstances have much to do in deciding whether one's life is to be successful or unsuccessful. This truth was partly expressed by the immortal bard who says, again:

"There is a tide in the affairs of men,
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune;
Omitted, all the voyage of their life
Is bound in shallows and miseries."

Occasionally we see a man so obsessed with the notion that he alone is responsible for his success, that he openly claims credit for creating his opportunities. The only hope for such a man, except in a hard fall from his pedestal—and some have so fallen—is that he may happen to see in the dictionary the definition of the word opportunity. Opportunities come; they are not made. Observing persons have all wondered at the phenomenal success of some men—men that "toil not, neither do they spin," yet gather the shekels in. And right here the observations of the brilliant and versatile Arnold Bennett, who, by the way, has the good sense to write thin instead of thick

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books, are apropos: "Most writers on success are, through sheer goodness of heart, wickedly disingenuous. For the basis of their argument is that nearly anyone who gives his mind to it can achieve success. . . . Having boldly stated that success is not, and can not be, within the grasp of the many, I now proceed to state, as regards the minority, that they do not achieve it in the manner in which they are commonly supposed to achieve it. . . .

("No one is a worse guide to success than your typical successful man. He seldom understands the reasons of his own success; and when he is asked by a popular magazine to give his experiences for the benefit of the youth of a whole nation, it is impossible for him to be neutral and sincere. He knows the kind of thing that is expected from him, and if he didn't come to London with half a crown in his pocket he probably did something equally silly, and he puts that down, and the note of the article or interview is struck, and good-bye to truth! . . . Are successful men more industrious, frugal and intelligent than men who are not successful? I maintain that they are not, and I have studied successful men at close quarters. One of the commonest characteristics of the successful man is his idleness, his immense capacity for wasting time. I stoutly assert that as a rule successful men are by habit comparatively idle. As for frugality, it is practically unknown among the successful classes: This state-

ment applies with particular force to financiers. As for intelligence, I have over and over again been startled by the lack of intelligence in successful men. They are, indeed, capable of stupidities that would be the ruin of a plain clerk. Another point: Successful men seldom succeed as a result of an ordered arrangement of their lives; they are the least methodical of creatures. Naturally when they have 'arrived' they amuse themselves and impress the majority by being convinced that right from the start, with a steady eye on the goal, they had carefully planned every foot of the route."

With Mr. Bennett's insight, no observing person will find fault, for its correctness is confirmed in real life all about us. In the pursuit of wealth, it is probably true that a hundred work hard and fail, to one who succeeds by hard work. And in the various positions of employment the hardest workers are almost uniformly the poorest paid—from the baggage man or the clerk in a busy store up to the secretary of a railroad president or an Assistant Postmaster General. As for correct perception being a requisite for success, we have the exclamation of Carlyle: "Fie on your man of logic; he never succeeds!" No, success is more likely to be with the blunderbuss who vehemently contends that two and two make five. The philosophy of this fact is well expressed in the dictum: "It is not ideas that move and transform the world, but passions; and a passion, even if it be absurd, is a thousand times more powerful than a

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wise idea."

/ There is a kind of success, too, sometimes a brilliant success, that comes of appropriating the unacknowledged help or ideas of others. Many an empty-headed lord has got through life very passably, thanks to the brains of his valet. Many a lazy or absentee Congressman has got credit for efficiency, through the industry of his private secretary. Sometimes a man still higher in office receives the plaudits of the people by appropriating the bright idea of some minor Department Chief, as witness the movement for the conservation of the nation's resources. Again, it is related that the day after President Cleveland ordered the return of the Confederate flags, an old Union soldier, then a guard in a certain State Capitol, was reading of this order in the morning paper. The Governor, happening to pass by, the old guard read the order to him, remarking with some warmth that if he were Governor of that State he would telegraph the President that he would see him in purgatory before he would return the flags. The Governor seized the idea, sent the President some such message as the old guard had formulated and got much glory out of it. Even so great a thing as our fundamental law, the Constitution of the United States, it now appears, has been credited to the wrong men. The pamphlet of a comparatively unknown, though educated and thoughtful citizen of Connecticut, Peletiah Webster, published in

1783, four years before the Constitutional Convention assembled, contained the scheme of that great instrument. Hamilton, Madison, Wilson and others of the convention used this pamphlet without so much as a thank you; and history has given them the glory—another illustration that, as Napoleon said: "History is fable agreed upon." It is well that Congress has taken notice of Webster in the form of a bill to erect a memorial to the real author of the Constitution. My readers can doubtless recall instances within their own observation where credit went to the wrong person. As Lessing truly says: "Some people obtain fame, and others deserve it."

Where worldly success is really won by the man himself, as we say, it is often through the most reprehensible methods, ranging from niggardly parsimony to downright dishonesty. In either case there is nothing to admire about it. Two residents of a certain city were one day riding down town in a street car, and as they passed by a spacious tract of land with an old brick house in the center, one remarked to the other: "I admire the old fellow that lives in that house." "Why so?" asked the other. "Well, he came to this city a poor young man, and by working hard and saving his money he is now worth a million dollars. He gets down to his dry goods store in the morning before his clerks do and he stays until they are gone. He tends right to his business." As he finished this encomium, his com-

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panion asked: "Is that all?" "Why, isn't that enough?" was the reply. "Not for me," came the rejoinder. "You have simply described a human hog, a being that lives only for self. Before I can join in your admiration of the man you must show me what he has done for his fellow-man other than perhaps being a convenience as a dealer in dry goods." In the rank of the "self-made" there are far too many like this dry goods merchant.

Of fame, it may be said with that writer of sensible things, Dr. Frank Crane, that it is "a gambling affair." "There are no known laws for becoming noted," says Dr. Crane, "if your card turns up you win; if the little ball stops on your number you are it! That's all." He then cites the case of the hard-working lawyer, William A. Butler, who, though a worthy person, never won fame in his profession, but who in a leisure moment wrote "Nothing to Wear," which he sold to Harper's Weekly for \$50. The poem caught the fancy of the public, and we all know the rest; the writer of "a few pages of society verse," became famous. Take the case of the English author whose book had no better success than Thoreau's "A Week on the Concord and Merrimac Rivers." Now it happened that Gladstone had his portrait painted with a copy of the volume in his hand. That was enough; the book soon found its way into the hands of everybody. "To feed a child's mind upon the motive of being famous some day is immoral," again says Dr. Crane. "He certain-

ly can be useful, great and strong some day, if he will, (?) but guessing which of the three shells the pea is under is hardly a worthy life's business." Says Schopenhauer: "He who deserves fame without getting it, possesses by far the more important element of happiness, which should console him for the loss of the other. It is not that a man is thought to be great by the masses of incompetent and often infatuated people, but that he really is great which should move us to envy his position; and his happiness lies, not in the fact that posterity will hear of him, but that he is the creator of thoughts worthy to be treasured up and studied for hundreds of years."

Since both fame and fortune are so often unearned, or go to the unworthy; since the only thing that can be truly said of successful or famous men is that they are fortunate, how little should success be considered in estimating men! That it should be made a fetish, as it is today, is idolatry; that it should be a barrier, as it also is, between men, is snobbery.

The fellowship that is needed in the city today is as broad as citizenship, and as deep as kind hearts can feel. How false are tests of creeds and of worldly success as solvents of social problems when put beside the touchstone of universal kindness!

"So many books, so many creeds,
So many paths that wind and wind—
When all this old world really needs
Is just the art of being kind."

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As was shown in an earlier chapter, charitable and philanthropic organizations have been increasing rapidly in our cities during the last few years. While some of these societies are voluntary, being formed by men and women with a practical love for mankind in their hearts, most of them are institutions established by the city; and they are the subject of municipal budgets, the same as are the various departments of government. Some persons believe that all philanthropic and charitable work should be the "job of the city;" and many an unreasoning diatribe against large philanthropies by the rich have we seen in the editorial columns of radical newspapers. "Why leave to the kindly impulses of the conscience-stricken rich the task of caring for sick babies, over-worked mothers, soul-hungry folk of every age marooned by poverty in the crowded cities?" exclaims one organ. With the cry of justice, not charity, these people would discourage the kindness of heart which prompts the fortunate (not necessarily the conscience-stricken) to relieve the distress of the unfortunate, while at the same time they would make the poor ever more dependent upon charity as a settled policy of municipal government. Thus would the city become ever more attractive to the poor than would the country, the source of food supplies—the very thing that, as the philosophical historian, Ferrero, points out, was one of the chief causes of the ruin of ancient Rome.

No one worth listening to advocates the sub-

stitution of charity for justice. Some day, perhaps, we will carry the idea of brotherhood so far as to conceive society as being only a big family, and, as at no family table would one member be allowed to gather all the food around his plate, so neither will any member of society, especially in a democracy, be allowed to own and control an excessively large fortune. As an equalizing measure this limitation of wealth would have a decided advantage over the income tax, which the rich can indirectly collect from the poor. We will then go Mr. Carnegie one better and declare that instead of it being a disgrace for a man to die rich, it will be a disgrace for a nation to permit a man to possess millions of dollars while millions of men go hungry. But this is a far look into the future; and besides, the most perfect dispensation of justice will not insure against misfortune, and so there will always be a field for individual helpfulness. We are living in the present, and Heaven knows "the harvest truly is plenteous;" let not the laborers be few. In a recent article on poverty in the United States, Professor Todd, of the University of Illinois said: "It may shock our national vanity, but it is true, nevertheless, that from 10 to 20 per cent. of our fellow Americans are in real distress; that 20 to 30 per cent. are living constantly below a physical efficiency minimum, and that even a higher percentage do not receive an income sufficient to maintain either economic or social efficiency."

So far from public institutions being all-sufficient as an uplifting force in society, they are frequently a stumbling block in the way of the unfortunate, and a hardener of the hearts of the well-to-do. It may be laid down as a rule, I think, that in the field of philanthropy public institutions are, to the extent of their establishment, destructive of individual effort in the same field. Too much reliance is placed by the citizen upon the welfare departments of the city. Many a man has found an excuse for withholding aid and comfort from the distressed in the thought: "Oh, well, the city has a place for the down and out. Let them apply to the Board of Charities. What do I pay taxes for, anyway?"

In these days there are not wanting writers, who, saturated with academic notions about "scientific philanthropy," decry all giving by the individual to the needy, thus overruling Christ himself, who said: "Give to him that asketh thee." "Indiscriminate," "wasteful," and "demoralizing" charity are favorite words with these writers. But are the charitable institutions of State and city always wisely managed? Not if former Governor Foss spoke truly. In a message to the Legislature he said: "Public money is being poured out without any businesslike and adequate safeguard;" and he mentioned many charitable institutions where there is no adequate accounting. It is said on good authority that it costs the average city three dollars to give away five. As I write these lines,

my morning paper notes a resolution introduced in the City Council of Boston in its session yesterday, asking for an investigation of a charitable organization of which the mover said: "Their own reports show that it cost \$48,000 to give away about half that sum." So much for red tape, and high salaried officers, even if not something worse.

Again, the optimistic and often highly colored newspaper accounts of the charitableness of a city cause kindly disposed persons to take too much for granted, and think that enough good things are already provided. About the time one newspaper in a certain city was going into ecstasies over a "Community Christmas"—a lean tree in the public square, covered with tinsel and filled with gewgaws and surrounded by a curious crowd from the downtown district—another paper was testing out the fellowship spirit in a different way. It sent out a reporter, disguised in threadbare clothes, to see just how much of the "milk of human kindness" there was in that city. In a whole afternoon on the streets the reporter found but two persons out of twenty-five who were willing to help him. The sum total of the relief was thirty-five cents; and the donor of the quarter fumbled through all his pockets in search of a dime instead. This tells the whole story, and always will. The person that is unwilling to stop and listen to one in distress (but not drunk) and help him if possible, has little of the charity teachings of

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Christ in him; and in a city made up of such people a "Community Christmas" with all its alliterative larrup, is but sounding brass and tinkling cymbals. Charity only on Christmas day is off the same piece as piety only on the Sabbath day.

Within recent years many voluntary organizations have been formed in various parts of the country to aid the poor or friendless. Such is, among others, the Big Brother lodge of the Elks, by which each member constitutes himself a brother to one or more boys in need of a friend; and the resulting friendship finds expression in material aid and moral influence. Within one year after it was organized, this beneficent department of the B. P. O. E. had established nine hundred lodges, and assisted five thousand boys. What a power for practical good this society may become!

The Gideons, now numbering fifteen thousand out of more than half a million traveling men, though not as young an organization, may be mentioned as another force for good among the lonely men and women of a big city. It is this organization that puts the Bible in every guest room in the hotels of our country and does other good deeds. Many are the men—and women too—whom the Gideons claim to have saved from lives of shame or from suicide.

Of purely local societies that are organized to extend the hand of fellowship to the stranger and to the derelict, nearly every large city can now boast one or more. May they greatly multiply!

But, after all, the individual must be the unit of true fellowship. Just as the threads must be new and strong to insure strength in the fabric, just as the ingredients must be pure to insure a wholesome dish, so must the individual be friendly to insure the fellowship that is sadly needed in society today; for in society, as in nature, a stream will rise no higher than its source.

All about us, in the big city, are men and women hungering for fellowship as the destitute hunger for bread; and it is the duty of every good citizen who is fairly fortunate in having friends to chum a little with those in need of friends. Several years ago a president of the United States became convinced that the farmer was lonely, so he appointed a commission to provide ways and means of amusing him. Of course, the farmer and his wife, with their grange meetings, their sewing circles and other bees, their picnics and their revival meetings, laughed at this, just as the wage-earner in the city laughed at the same official's innocent counsel to have a large family. This socializing commission had hardly got to work when it was realized that it was the people of the crowded city, paradoxical as it would seem, instead of the farmers, that were lonely. Accordingly, since the city of Rochester, a few years ago, threw open the doors of its public schools to the people of the various neighborhoods for night meetings, school houses in many cities have become social centers where next door neighbors may become ac-

quainted!

We hear much of Christian brotherhood. But we see very little of any kind of brotherhood in the city today. Why, men never even speak unless they are acquainted, but pass one another like the beasts of the jungle, silent and intent on their prey. A strange sort of brotherhood, this. A few kind words every day, a disposition to be friendly,—how many a poor soul might have risen instead of fallen had he received this little attention!

In a certain town in the West lived a mechanic who was at the same time a musician of considerable talent, but this man had a very common weakness; he would drink. The habit finally threatened to work his utter ruin. He lost job after job until, although in the prime of life, he gave up looking for work and became a street loafer. Every respectable person shunned him. No, not everyone. One man there was, a blunt though kind-hearted manufacturer, who had known the derelict in his better days. Now this good man did not avoid the unfortunate, nor did he go to him with a sanctimonious air and remonstrate with him. But he went up to him and, in the same offhand manner he had with everyone, extended his hand and said: "John, I need a skilled man in the die-room and I want you to come to work tomorrow morning? Will you come?" John went to work, and he has often told, during the many years of a sober and industrious life he has since lived, how it was his boss's manner on that eventful day that reformed

